



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	BSc Animal Sciences
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	10/07/2023 until 10/11/2023
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	New Zealand
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Lincoln
<b>University (exchange)</b>	Lincoln University
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Agriculture & Ecology

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

Study Exchange is an incredible opportunity, you get to experience a whole different way of thinking. You really get to experience a culture while you are for a couple months in another country. Exchange also gives you the opportunity to meet amazing people. And I have really experienced already that so many doors open for you if you are a student in a country, compared to a tourist.

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

I think New Zealand on its own is a beautiful country, but looking at its ecology and agricultural sector in more depths is even more interesting. It is so different from what we are used to in Europe. I choose Lincoln University, because it looked like they were more focused on ecology as well and integrating that in a realistic way into agriculture.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

The best of luck with taking any other way of transportation than the airplane 😊

## 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	Animal Health	7.5	Discussing most known diseases based on cause,	5	I really enjoyed this course; we had an excursion every week. Which really helped to

			development, symptoms, treatment and control.		understand the NZ industry. And the teacher, Jim, is also a great guy, he knows a lot and very interesting to talk to him.
2	Meat & Wool Production Science	7.5	Discussing the meat (beef, sheep and deer) and wool industry, but also what is needed to produce quality	4	I did enjoy this course, especially the wool and deer parts, since that was very new to me. I did sometimes find it a bit hard to follow, since one of the teachers, Pablo, had a strong accent.
3	Ecology I: NZ Ecology & Conservation	7.5	Introduction to ecology, discussing the concepts and putting the focus on New Zealand	4	A very interesting course, especially if you want to learn more about NZ ecology. I really came across a lot of the examples they gave in the lectures while on hikes. I do however want to say that the level was a bit low, but that could be expected for a first-year course.
4	AgroEcology	7.5	A very diverse course, with different guest speakers. Discussing very relevant topics, like nitrogen, soil health, etc.	5	I think this course challenged me the most, since it was mainly focussed on plants. The teacher, Nick, really loves them, haha. But I learned a ton and it gave me way more context for what I have been learning the past years at the WUR.

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

There are a lot more assignments at Lincoln than at the WUR. The assignments make up on average for 50% of your grade. To see the exact percentages, you can look at the course guide for the course you are interested in.

Lincoln is a lot more practical than the WUR, which I loved! I am not used to go on excursions, so it was great to get to go on a lot more of those there. I would also say that made it easier for me, since I remember stuff way better if I have seen/experienced it, instead of reading about it.

The workload is very doable, because of the assignments, the workload was a lot more spread across the semester. I never really needed to do anything at night/during the weekends.

**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 approachable, and they are happy to explain things. The university is quite small, which means that some courses have very little students. I really liked that about Lincoln.

Lincoln is a great university to come as an exchange student, since you are only there for a semester, it is nice that you start to recognize lots of faces after just a few weeks. The kiwis are very kind, although I would say they aren't very keen to hangout after uni. So I mostly hanged out with other exchange students, which is lots of fun. It actually makes sense, at the WUR you see the same thing, exchange students mostly hangout with other exchange students.

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

Everything! They even organize lots of stuff to participate in, I would say at least once a week (sometimes more) the uni organizes something for the students. Like a free lunch, a quiz night, excursions etc. And that is all on top of the facilities they already have, a beautiful gym and you could even get food at the cafeteria every single part of the day.

## **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 an opportunity to sing up for a room on campus, I would recommend that. I stayed at Farm road myself, at which lots of exchange students stay as well. It is just so easy and from the accommodation offered by the university you can walk to campus with a max of 10 minutes walking.

I would say on campus you pay a bit more than average, but it is worth the extra money since it is hassle free and the accommodation office organizes lots of things too.

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

Kiwi's are very chill and laid back people.

Lincoln University is mostly filled with lots of farmers or people who have a connection to farming. The kiwi's are wearing gumboots to class and talking about fishing, hunting, etc.. People are very kind and are happy to explain stuff to you. I would also say there are quite a lot of internationals from Asian countries, which I was surprised by for such a small university.

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

I paid 240 NZD per week, which includes gas, electricity and wifi (to a certain amount). So it is more expensive than in Wageningen. 1EUR is about 1.70-1.80NZD.

**Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure? (E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?)**

You can get a free public transport card for free from the uni, and with that card you only pay 1 dollar per ride (in Christchurch area). Which was very cheap, but I would definitely recommend to get a car, it is easier than I expected and it is quite cheap as well. Gas is cheaper than in NL and for insurance I paid 20 dollars per month, which only insured me for damage I made on other cars. Some people even sold their car with a bit of a profit. You don't need the car to get to uni, since you can walk (if you live on campus). But I would recommend it for getting cheaper groceries and just getting to go out of town and explore the country.

## 6. Free time

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

So many things! You can not go wrong in New Zealand, wherever you go, it will be gorgeous! I would recommend doing lots of roadtrips and for sure going out to see something every weekend. I sometimes only went to a rugby game or something like that, but time flies by so fast. So I wanted to make sure that at least I did something new during the weekend, even when weather wasn't the greatest. Most museums are free in NZ, so I would recommend going to the earthquake museum for example.

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

One of my first weekends away was to hike the Copland track. It is a hike with an overnight in the welcome flat hut. Close to the hut there are natural hot springs and I think it is still one of my most found memories from New Zealand. Sitting in that warm hot spring, after a long hike, watching the beautiful mountains, with still some snow on them and then just waiting for more and more stars to appear. It was magical and I would highly recommend it to anyone!

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

Lincoln is not a very big town, but Famous Grouse on Wednesday nights is the place to go.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

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

A challenge I am thinking of and that I experienced right at the start was about the insurance. They are quite strict about your insurance at Lincoln University. But WUR also has an insurance that fits their requirements. However it does take a bit of effort to convince Lincoln uni of that.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

There are many! But the thing, I am most glad about I did is to become part of a church while on exchange. The people really received me with open arms, they are so kind and generous. And besides all that, I learned so much about the New Zealand culture through them. So I would definitely recommend it! The service of the church, King's Church, is

located in Christchurch, but some people also live in Lincoln. If you would like to get in contact with them, just message me 😊

## 8. 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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