



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	Forest and Nature conservation (BBN)
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	11-09-2023 until 18-02-2024
Exchange destination: University	Ulisboa
Faculty	Faculdade de ciências
Country	Portugal
City	Lisbon

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

To get a better social experience, go out of the Wageningen bubble, learn a new language and get to know a new expertise (Marine ecology)

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

Because Lisbon is situated at the ocean and I wanted to learn Portuguese. It's also one of the few Universities in Europe that gives Marine Ecology as an option.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

I did it by plane but it is possible to reach it by other public transport, you can take a train to Madrid and from Madrid you could take a FlixBus or train to Lisbon.

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	Marine Aquaculture Techniques	6	This is all about the techniques of marine aquaculture systems and what kind of influence aquaculture systems have on the environment and which countries are the major aquaculture producers and what the main species are	4	Not my interest but amazing way of teaching
2	Marine Global Changes	6	Kind of climate change ecology of marine ecosystems. About the challenges and the threats of the ocean right now and marine climate change history	5	Very interesting and very interactive because you have to do a lot of presentations... this is therefore also a little bit more work
3	Marine Governance and Conservation	6	About the challenges of international law on the ocean and how complicated it is to implement the laws. Adding to that you get to know the main conventions and new updated about what is happening in that specific week of your classes.	5	Amazing course and amazing teacher.
4	Ocean Ecosystem Services and Sustainable Development	6	You get to know the different stakeholders in the different ecosystems and how to manage this and represent everybody as good as possible	3	Little bit of vague teaching because it is very global and very chaotic

What is it like to study there?

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

At my faculty I was very lucky with my professors and the help desk, everybody was always very helpful and very effective and efficient in replying to questions. Adding to that the workload was good, the master courses are comparable to end bachelor courses in work load. I found the teaching method more appealing than in Wageningen because I think you get more prepared to daily worklife. Definitely worth it to go there for your exchange period!

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?

On average in the master courses there are not that many international students but it also depends per study, so it's always good to learn some Portuguese because everybody would really appreciate that even so that they do give class in English. The difference

with WUR is that classes are even more interactive with more time for discussions but I think that's especially in the ecology department. For the rest local students are always very helpful but the best way to stay in contact with them is to learn the language as I said.

What does the university offer students additionally?

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

They have a catering where they have kind of all you can eat meals at cantina velha for only a maximum of 3 euros. They serve vegan, meat and fish dishes. For the rest they have a whole sport faculty where you can find everything!

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?

The best way to find a room is via ESN, erasmuslife Lisboa or Uniplaces

What is the culture of the country like?

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

People are warmer and more helpful in Portugal, the cuisine is very good but very meatbased but there are a lot of vegan restaurants in Lisbon to that are amazing and it is compared to the netherlands really cheap. Again learn some basic Portuguese because especially in the authentic places they don't speak English.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

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

Via the university you can get a discount on a public transport card for Lisbon and Lisbon region. In this way, you only have to pay 30 euros a month to travel everywhere. Get your card as soon as possible to spare money and avoid cues at the metro station when requesting the card. Before you request the card at the metro station you have to have a passport photo and a discount form signed by the university.

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: 250

Visa if applicable: -

Vaccinations if applicable: -

Insurances (extra, if applicable): -

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: in between 400 and 500 is normal

Groceries: 5 to 10 euros per day

Public transport: 30 per month
Restaurant/going out for dinner: 15 euros and then you will have a very good meal
Daytrips/sight-seeing: depends

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?

Travel with your navigante card, you already pay for that probably and you can go every where to the national parks around Lisbon. Nearby destinations to go to are Cabo da roca and walk from here to praia da urso, Ericeira, sesimbra, Arrabida national park and sintra.

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

Praia do ribeiro do cavalo, heel mooi strand bewandelbaar vanaf sesimbra!

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?

Vegan restaurants: Kong, guilietta, o gambuzino, a minha avó

Clubs: Lux fragile, Ministerium (both techno house)

Bars: park bar (rooftop), a capella (DJ sets), casa independente (local hippie bar , camones (open mic bar)

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Don't overthink, just do!

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

The amazing beaches and learning to surf.

9. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail	louis.pattyn@wur.nl	