



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Animal sciences/Life sciences
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	23/01/2023 until 16/06/2023
Country (exchange)	Spain (Catalonia)
City (exchange)	Lleida
University (exchange)	Universitat de Lleida
Faculty (exchange)	ETSEA

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I chose to go on study exchange, because I have always been intrigued by the idea of moving to another country. By this exchange, I wanted to see how it would feel to actually live in another country than my own. Also, I feel like going on exchange is a unique opportunity, since it is very special to get to step out of your comfort zone/bubble by having to make a new life from scratch. My choice of studying at WUR was also enforced by all the opportunities that this university has to go abroad, so when the time was there to apply for an exchange program I did not hesitate and wrote an application letter!

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

Many of my friends chose for a more Northern country, like Norway or Czech republic. But I already knew that this was not for me, since I am not a fan of cold weather and get winter depression easily. I also saw this exchange to enjoy a more warm climate. Next to the weather, I also really love the Mediterranean culture, lifestyle and the people. In high school, I had Spanish classes, which I really liked. So going to Spain was also a great manner of improving my Spanish even more.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I reached Lleida by taking a plane to Barcelona El Prat airport and then a train to Lleida, since it has a big train station that can be accessed easily. On the way back, I took a BlaBlaCar to Reus airport, since I really like the carpooling service and Reus airport is closer to Lleida than the one of Barcelona.

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					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

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

I followed courses from different studies, but most of them were from a master's program for international studies named Erasmus Mundus. This, because it was hard to find English courses in this university that fitted my interest for animals. Therefore I studied this master that was mainly about forestry. I liked the fact that during these courses, there were many field trips and practicals. We even had a 3-day field trip in the Pyrenees! I do not think the academic level was as high as in Wageningen, and the examination was mostly by reports and presentations.

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?)

This University consists of multiple campuses distributed all over the city. All these campuses really have their own community and style and there is not much interaction with other campuses. But, because the campuses are smaller, it is much more of a small community and therefore it is easier to recognize and get to know people on campus. This is very different from the WUR, since here, all the buildings are on one campus and there is more overlap between the different studies.

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

The university has a lot of facilities. Sports, catering, vans to go on field trips, an arboretum. It even has a teaching hospital for medicine students.

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 possibilities are good. It is definitely cheaper than in the Netherlands. I would recommend finding a room via Idealista.nl.

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

Officially this is Spain, but the autonomous region of Catalonia is a little bit different from the rest of the country. They have their own language and are really proud of their own part. The people are a bit more closed, and are almost more like the French than the Spanish. But they are still really nice and more open than Dutch people.

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

Here, it is between 150-400 euros per month, while in Wageningen this ranges between 250-600 per month.

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

PT is really cheap here. A bus ticket is about 50 cent per ride and the train to Barcelona is 20 euros for 3 months.

6. Free time

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

Barcelona, Mongost de rebei (a canyon), the Pyrenees, the old cities around Lleida, the Seu Vella (Lleida's pride), the parades of the holidays, the beach (Sitges, Tarragona).

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

The street underneath the Seu Vella, filled with bars and restaurants.

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

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

I rode into a car with my bike (would not recommend getting a bike in Lleida though) and had to fix the damage with the insurance.

What was your best memory abroad?

Meeting so many new friends. Going to Valencia and Barcelona for the holidays.

8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail		

