



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	Master's Management, Economics and Consumer Studies
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	31/08/2023 until 22/12/2023
Exchange destination: University	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Faculty	College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
Country	The US
City	Madison

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I want to explore the different and culture and study environment.

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

Global ranking in quality of education and my personal interests.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

Ensure you have the correct visa and follow the requirements carefully. Join the School's Facebook or Instagram account to gain the latest updates. Sort your email because you will receive a bunch of emails!

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	Food Systems & Supply Chains	3	Examination of the structure of supply chains for food and agriculture and key business decisions in the broader context of food systems.	5	I really enjoy the professor's teaching style. The classes have a very lively atmosphere, and there are many group discussions and activities. The guest lectures are wonderful.
2	Machine Learning in Applied Economic Analysis	4	The basic methods, implementation and applications of machine learning for understanding contemporary economic issues using large datasets. Building upon understanding of standard econometric models, the topics include regression model selection and regularization; tree-based methods; support vector machines; neural networks; basics of causal inference; application of machine learning methods in economic analysis.	4	Very technical courses. The final group project is very interesting.
3	Third Semester Dutch	4	A review of Dutch grammar and vocabulary development. Reading and discussion of newspaper articles and modern short stories.	4	
4	Introduction to Data Analysis using Spreadsheets	2	Introduction to data analysis for social scientists using spreadsheets software - with specific applications to economics, business and finance - including data	5	

			management and manipulation; formulas and calculations; data visualization and presentation using charts and graphics; statistical and visual analysis of economic indicators using tables, functions, graphs and descriptive statistics; and optimization of functions with economic and financial data.		
5					
6					

What is it like to study there?

The study schedule is very different than studying at WUR. Homework and pre-lecture studying are mandatory, the workload is also higher than WUR.

What is the culture of the university?

Active participation is often a significant component of classes in the U.S. This includes group discussions, class debates, and collaborative projects, fostering a dynamic and interactive learning environment. WUR also encourages active learning, but the style and extent might vary. Besides, Continuous assessment through quizzes, presentations, and participation is common in the U.S., alongside mid-term and final exams.

UW-Madison has a vibrant campus life with numerous clubs, organizations, sports teams, and social events, which is way more larger in scale.

What does the university offer students additionally?

Amazing sports centre with a professional indoor skating area.

5.Housing-travelling-living

What are the possibilities for housing?

I would say housing is quite intense at the campus. If you want to get the room on time, prepare it as early as possible.

What is the culture of the country like?

The U.S. is known for its large portion sizes in restaurants. Meals often come in sizes that are significantly larger compared to the Netherlands. Sports are a significant part of American culture, with baseball, American football, basketball, and ice hockey being particularly popular. As a student, you will usually receive the promotion of sports ticket with a very reasonable price.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

As a UW-Madison student, you will receive the bus ticket for free once you arrive at the campus. Uber is commonly used in the US and it is very convenient. US is unimaginably wide, so be prepared for the long-distance travel.

6. Expenses

Can you give an indication of your expenses for/during your exchange?

Ticket there: about 350€ (single way with 2-3 month earlier book)
Visa if applicable: about 350€
Vaccinations if applicable: NA
Insurances (extra, if applicable): 750\$ /semester
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: about 1100\$/month
Groceries: 450\$/month (school's meal plan) OR 200-300\$/mon if you cook yourself
Public transport: Free by bus within the town
Restaurant/going out for dinner: 15-20\$ / time
Daytrips/sight-seeing: Depends

Additional remarks regarding expenses?

Also depends where are you traveling to. Within the country the flight ticket is not expensive.

7. Free time

What are must-sees in the area?

This bustling pedestrian zone connects the university campus with the Wisconsin State Capitol; lake Mendota; Chazen Museum of Art; Henry Vilas Zoo: A free public zoo that offers a variety of animal exhibits, located near the university campus, etc...

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

Devils' Lake

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

Following the Google Reviews and Instagram posts.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Living in a student dorm and sharing space with (a) roommate(s). It has been a long time since I've lived with someone else, and many conflicts arose due to different schedules. I believe communication is the key. Eventually, we solved the problem by openly discussing the issue together with the house manager.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

Meeting people from all over the world and eventually making friends with them; having experience in studying in a native English country; visiting many dream places that I always want to go since I was a kid.

9. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail	Han1.lai@wur.nl	