



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Environmental Sciences
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	17/01/2023 until 27/05/2023
Country (exchange)	Spain
City (exchange)	Pamplona
University (exchange)	Universidad Publica de Navarra
Faculty (exchange)	Agriculture and Engineering

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to travel, meet people from other countries and learn about the Spanish culture and schooling system.

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

Pamplona seemed to be located near beautiful nature and the Spanish culture attracts me with their openness and friendliness.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I travelled by Flixbus, which went very smoothly. You can travel to San Sebastian with one transfer in Paris. From San Sebastian you can get a local bus to Pamplona. The total trip takes about 23 hours.

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	PROJECT MANAGEMENT	3	This course taught you the fundamentals of being a project manager.	2	It was a new course, so there was still quite some development needed.
2	GREEN LOGISTICS FOR SMART CITIES	6	Online course with information on the principles of logistics and how this can be applied to a smart city	2	This is just a personal preference. I found out that I dislike logistics, but if you are interested this course can give you good insides.
3	ECODESIGN BY LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT	3	We did a life cycle assessment of a product (or two products) with the help of a computer program called GaBi.	3	Although I found the explanation given with this online course a bit vague and while it lacked quite some information, we did learn how to use GaBi in the end, since we got a lot of personal guidance. I was only with one other student so that made it possible to get that much help. If there are more students, I would suggest to only follow this course if you have a background in computer science, since this course was actually meant for people in that field of area.
4	FUNDAMENTAL ASPECTS OF RENEWABLE ENERGIES	3	We dived into the principles of many different renewable energy technologies.	5	I really liked the course. The English version of this course does not include too much technical information and makes it possible for people from different backgrounds to understand the principles of the technologies.
5	SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF ENVIRONMENT	6	With the help of practicals and theoretical classes, this course made you think of the ecological connections between things.	5	It was a fun course that gave you the opportunity to think further than a textbook explanation and to explore the applications in nature.
6	CROP PROTECTION AND PLANT PRODUCTION	6	This course was divided into two parts, plant production and crop protection. It went into detail on pathogens, insects and abiotic circumstances and how to protect crops in such cases.	4	The course contained a lot of information and at some points seemed a bit boring to me. However, this course has taught me the most and I think this information has been most valuable for future interests in agricultural applications.

	<i>EFFECTS OF THE AGRARIAN ACTIVITY IN THE ENVIRONMENT: CASE STUDIES</i>	3	This was another online course which contained study cases of environmental disasters from agricultural activities.	5	It was interesting to read about case studies like the Dust Bowl and find out what the different effects agriculture can have on habitats and nature. In the end you had to create your own case study.
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How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)

The workload was overall not too high. I followed 7 courses and still had one extra free day, which only had to be partly filled with homework. It is easy to keep up when you work in your field of area and also when not I think you can easily manage to understand. Although, it also depends on the language of the course, since the Spanish courses were told to be harder.

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?)

My classes were very empty ranging from 2 to 8 people, which made the classes very interactive. The teachers are very friendly and are happy to help you. The courses are however not recorded and attendance is evaluated.

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

There is a sports facility which offers many different sports classes and groups and the cafeteria offers cheap sandwiches and tortilla de patatas and a bit more expensive (7 euros) two-course lunch. It is somewhat hard to get warm vegetarian food though.

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 are many different options within housing, namely a whatsapp group for people offering and looking for apartments. Also sites like idealista offer many different apartments. The campus rooms are more expensive and more private, and can range between 450 and 700 (I think). Normal apartment rooms often cost around 350-400 euros.

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

In general, the people are nice and open, but have a low proficiency in English. They are known from their pintxos, which is a smaller version of tapas and this is often served from 9 pm (kitchens sometimes do not even open before 20:30). The people in Pamplona seem very active in outdoor sports like hiking and bouldering. In the evening, the streets are full of people from every age having some drinks and pintxos at the bars.

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

Since eating and drinking out was way cheaper than in the Netherlands, while groceries was about the same to maybe a bit more expensive, I would say that you pay for about 70% of what you would have for expenses in Wageningen. This does not include the trips however, which will cause a higher load of expenses.

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

The bus within Pamplona is very good and cheap. It only costs 36 cents for wherever you go within the city when you have a bus card. When you pay with debit card or credit card directly, it would be 1.50. Taxi's are cheaper than here, but I cannot give a well price indication. There are shared e-bikes, but I was not able to download the app since it was Spanish (you might be able to get around that) and I think one trip would also cost you less than a euro. But actually, I walked everything, since the furthest you would walk was about half an hour.

6. Free time

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

Definitely different spots and hikes in the mountain areas. Foz de Lumbier for instance was a beautiful and nearby mountain valley. Having a cheesecake in San Sebastian is also much recommended and doing some visits to nearby cities like Barcelona, Madrid and Valencia (not that nearby, but the erasmus group offers this trip) is surely worth doing. Trains and buses and trips offered by the erasmus group in Pamplona give you the opportunity to do these trips, but when possible, try to find people with cars as well. That will give you the opportunity to go to more remote areas in the nature. Finally, there is a nice climbing area in the mountains nearby Pamplona which is also possible to reach by bus.

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

Any nature reserve area you can find on Google Maps. Especially in spring when the green has returned to the forests. There are hike trails everywhere and these are often worth taking.

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

There is one main street which you will directly discover when going to Plaza del Castillo and this contains many nice bars. You can walk into any and have a nice time there with cheap wine and pintxos.

7. Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

To actually learn Spanish. When you meet many international students and do activities with them, it is hard to focus on still practicing your Spanish.

What was your best memory abroad?

Having been to a cottage for a weekend in a nature area with eleven other friends, with hikes during the day and parties at night.

8. Contact details (optional)

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