



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student information

Study programme WU	Msc Climate Studies
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	18 / 09 / 2023 until 15 / 12 / 2023
Exchange destination: University	Oregon State University
Faculty	Agriculture
Country	United States of America
City	Corvallis

2. Motivation for exchange

a. Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to know how it is to live and study in another country and another university. I am interested in different cultures and ways of thinking around the world and I hoped that an exchange would help me to find out more about living in another country and how it is to be completely away from home and your own friends, family and culture.

b. What is the reason you chose for this country?

The United States always have appealed to me. First of all because the universities are well recognised and known, and besides that, I always wanted to know the wild country with beautiful nature better.

c. What is the reason you chose for this university?

It was one of the 3 universities that we could choose from. I chose for OSU because it had interesting courses and I liked the mindset of the university. Besides that, I heard from a friend who was there that it was amazing with a nice campus, good qualitative lectures and nice teachers and people.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

a. Do you have any advice about reaching your exchange destination?

The best way is by plane to either Eugene Airport or Portland Airport. From there by bus to Corvallis. Sometimes there are shuttlebuses from the university available.

4. University and studying

a. 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
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1	<i>FW564 - MARINE CONSERVATION BIOLOGY</i>	3	Lectures and presentationskills	4	Nice course with a wide variety of interesting topics.
2	<i>FOR549 - SILVICULTURAL INFLUENCES ON FOREST ECOSYSTEM DYNAMICS</i>	3	Lectures and practicals outside. Learning to make a forest model	5	Very interesting to see the learned coursework from lectures in the actual forest and recreating your ideal forest stand in a computer model.
3	<i>GEOG553 - EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE SCIENCE</i>	3	Lectures an presentationskills	3	It was sometimes a bit easy, but nonetheless interesting topics and useful content.
4	<i>PAC174 - FLAG FOOTBALL</i>	1	Physical Activity Class	5	This was more to integrate into the American culture. Learning the plays of American football. Awesome way to spend your lunchbreaks!
5					
6					

- **I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses that were taught in English (Yes, No - Explain):**
 - Yes. America is native English, so all courses were taught in English aswell.
- **I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest (Yes, No - Explain):**
 - Yes. I informed myself about the courses before I chose the University already. A wide variety of courses in a lot of different fields.
- **I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed (Yes, No - Explain):**
 - Yes, The overall level was good, the way of grading is a bit misleading (A – F system) because I'm used to hard notes at the WUR, but fine in the end.
- **I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed (Yes, No - Explain):**
 - Yes. I had a lot of fun during the courses and I was happy that I chose them.

b. What is it like to study there?

E.g. Study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material?

The study forms were kind of comparable with the WUR, however, sometimes it felt a little easier. I also found the grading system a bit weird, especially because a small part of the grade is based on presence. The workload was good enough to learn from it, but also gave enough time to get to know the country and make new friends.

c. What is the culture of the university?

E.g. How approachable are the lecturers, engagement with local students? What are the differences with WU?

The teachers were very approachable. There was a lot of attention for the wellbeing of students. I didnt really use it, but it was available. Teachers and deans were very nice and always open to suggestions or problems that I had.

d. What does the university offer students additionally?

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

I lived off campus, so I do not know how the catering and laundry facilities were. The sports facilities however were awesome, free gym for students and there are PAC (Physical Activity Courses), which I really recommend looking into. You can do whatever you want in classes and also get credits for them 😊

5. Housing-traveling-living

a. What are the possibilities for housing?

E.g. Availability to sign up for a room on campus, private rooms, rent rates?

There is a possibility to live on campus. I found that a little too expensive for myself and I heard that its mostly for freshmen. I lived in iHouse, a big house where you live with 60, mostly international students. For American standards, not too expensive and perfect to make a lot of friends from around the world.

b. What is the culture like?

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

It is a bit more expensive everywhere, especially healthy food, so its important to watch that a bit. The people are super friendly and helpful for everything.

c. Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

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

I was dropped of at my house by my parents, in the city everything is doable by bike and I had friends with cars, so I don't know any prices of other things.

6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	1100
Visa - if applicable	200
Vaccinations - if applicable	120
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	90
Daytrips/sight-seeing	600
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	600
Grocery costs per month	500
Public transport costs per month	-
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	250

b. The price levels were in general [higher; lower; equal] in comparison to in the Netherlands:

Higher

c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?

Every thing is expensive, but if you watch a bit your money it is possible to not spend too much. On the other hand, I saved a lot of money for this so I didn't really care, wanted to enjoy time as much as possible and did not really watch my expenses.

7. Free time

a. What are must-sees in the area?

E.g. Nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?

There was a field trip organized by the university to Woodburn, an outlet center. Trips to Newport, Portland, Seattle and Bend are great, find someone with a car I recommend. The city is also worth exploring a bit, but it can be largely done by bike or walking. Once in the area, flying to San Francisco, LA or Las Vegas is also relatively cheap.

b. What does not appear in a travel guide, but is definitely worth seeing/doing?

Get in touch with Americans. I have been invited to celebrate Thanksgiving with an American family. That was great! Also visit as much as possible house- and fratparties. They are just like the movies haha.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

a. Any challenges? How did you deal with them?

I cant really think of any particular challenges, but having a nice friend group around you always is the best medicine.

b. Best memory?

I think my best memories are just simply in my house with my friends from all over the world sharing experiences from home and enjoying the company.

9. Contact details

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