



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Food Technology
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	28 March 2023 until 16 June 2023
Country (exchange)	USA
City (exchange)	Corvallis
University (exchange)	Oregon state university
Faculty (exchange)	Food Science

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

Because I regret that I didn't go in my bachelor. I wanted to improve my English, see how things are arranged at other universities and discover nature on another continent.

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

First, I applied for 3 cities in Europe, but I was rejected. In the next round I considered going somewhere outside Europe because I haven't been there before. I really wanted to discover all the beautiful nature in the USA so I visited plenty of national parks. Also, I wanted to go to a country where the native language was English, because that was the language I wanted to improve.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I went there by plane. It was way cheaper to fly from Germany instead of the Netherlands so consider that when booking your ticket. I flew to Portland and from Portland you can take a shuttle bus to Corvallis.

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	Chemistry and biochemistry of distilled spirits		This course was about the chemical processes of production of gin and Whisky	3	The teacher had a really bad Scottish accent, so it was hard to hear what he was saying. The lectures were not interactive at all and could be long and a bit boring
2	Innovation management		This course was about how you can grow your business/strategies	4	This course had a lot of group work. The teacher was really chaotic and not consequent in what he said and grading.
3	Food Safety and sanitation		This course was about food borne pathogens	5	This course was really well arranged. Nice teacher and interesting content. A lot of fact studying for the exam
4	Team and organizational leadership		Theory behind leadership	5	This course was really interactive. A lot of assignments during class. Passionate teacher.
5	PAC Volleyball III		Volleyball training (2 hours a week)	4	This course was about volleyball. It was a kind of PE. Teams were mixed with girls and guys. We played at 3 fields. The level was a bit low compared to Dutch club volleyball.
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How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)

The level is lower but the workload is higher. There are a lot of small assignments you need to do every week.

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?)

Very personal. Teachers really try to get to know you. They study your name and call you by your name. It is expected that you are there every time. You are graded for attendance. Even in groupwork, you get a lower grade if other group members are not there sometimes.

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

There is catering at the university but the meal plans are expensive so I wouldn't recommend. You can use the sport facilities for free, which is nice!

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?)

I lived at iHouse, which was nice! A bit messy, but not too expensive and you get to know a lot of people.

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

Not everyone is used to cooking. People eat a lot of food from the microwave or buy food all the time.

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

I think it was almost twice as expensive. I paid 600 dollars per month (550 euro). Compared to 300 in Wageningen.

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

Buses are free in Corvallis. There is also safeRide. A free taxi service for students in the evening hours. You can make a reservation in the app and they pick you up for free. In Corvallis, a bike can be nice but you can also walk everywhere.

6. Free time

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

All the national parks (crater lake, smith rock state park, red wood forest) and the coast (Newport). We rented a car in the Hertz office in corvallis every time. If you get an AAA membership you don't have to pay for underaged (under 25) driving. This saves a lot of money!!

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

Watching the sunset or rise at Mary's peak is really nice!

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

Tiki Tuesday and tequila Thursday at downward dog. The drinks are way cheaper on these days ☺

7.Challanges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

The car rental company tried to blame us for scratches on the car that we didn't make. It was hard to proof that it wasn't our fault without taking photo's in advance. So take pictures before you leave!

What was your best memory abroad?

We ended our exchange with a roadtrip at Hawaii! We swam with turtles, surfed and hiked a lot, that was a super cool experience. I travelled with friends I made during my exchange period.

8. Contact details (optional)

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