



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	BIN (Internationale ontwikkelingsstudies)
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	25/09/2023 until 11/02/2024
Exchange destination: University	University of Padova
Faculty	School of Economics and Political Science
Country	Italy
City	Padova

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I always wanted to go abroad, for my study and later for my work. This was a great opportunity to do so.

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

I searched for nice places and really looked into the courses they offered. This university had the most interesting courses I thought.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

If you are flying, fly to Venice, but most practical thing you can do is going by Flixbus (during the stop in Milan there is nothing, so take enough water/food/etc. with you)

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	Terrorism and security in International History	9	You will study different forms of terrorism and different terrorist groups during the years. E.g. you will know rise and fall of Al Qaeda, after following this course.	4	They work with a system of attending and non-attending. If you are non-attending, be actually non-attending and read the books during the time of the lectures.
2	Human Resource Management	6	You will get to know the basics of HRM. The course covers the process of hiring someone, from posting the vacancy online to someone being employed for an extended period of time	4	The professor was really nice, but I didn't like the course, not my interest
3	Contemporary History	9	The course gives you a quite general overview of the history with the main events like World War 1 and 2.	3	The professor was not good in teaching and I don't understand the contemporary part of the course. However, if you ask her personally for information, she is really nice
4	Public law and regulation	6	The course is about how public goods are legally coordinated. You need to write an essay about a sector in which the government is intervening.	4	The professor is really stimulating to write the essay and helps you with it.
5					
6					

What is it like to study there?

E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material.

It is sometimes really chaotic, the exam dates are not published until around 3 weeks in advance and the course set-up is quite complicated. You can be an attending student, then you need to do extra things, but you can choose from different things and how to do this and what the choses are, is really vague. If you are a non-attending student, you are really not expected in class in some courses, in other courses you are. The level of the exams really differ from course to course. I heard people who had an oral exam and they asked questions about what you thought about studying in Padova and if

you liked it there, I had on the other hand quite difficult written exams. You need to study more material, because the period is longer and they often have essay style questions.

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?

The lecturers are approachable, but often there are a lot of questions. The engagement with local students is difficult, because they often don't speak English very well. The buildings are depressing and the only place you can sit and relax in the buildings is in the Mensa, which is really crowded during lunch.

What does the university offer students additionally?

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

They do offer catering in the Mensa's, the libraries are really old, some therefore beautiful, others need to be renovated. They often have tables where you can sit with 8 people on, but they are not really big so you sit in someone else's personal space. Playing sport is really difficult, because you need a medical examination before you can sign up anywhere.

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?

As an European student you need to find your own place, the prices are comparable with the prices in Wageningen. Good to know, often they are not all-inclusive and they have a lot of double rooms.

What is the culture of the country like?

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

They eat at different times, which is difficult to understand, the time is quite specific. The local cuisine is just pasta, a lot of it. They eat two main meals, the first main course is pasta and the second is vegetables with meat. That is why the pasta's in restaurants are without any vegetables.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

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

The taxi is expensive, the best way to travel is by bike and by train to go to different places. Buy your ticket on time, two minutes before departure of the train you won't be able to buy any tickets any more.

6. Expenses

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

E.g. you can also indicate price differences (higher/lower/equal) in comparison to the Netherlands.

Ticket there:
Visa if applicable:
Vaccinations if applicable:
Insurances (extra, if applicable):
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: 500
Groceries: 150 a month, including wine by dinner etc.
Public transport: is included in the trip
Restaurant/going out for dinner: 20 euros for a nice meal
Daytrips/sight-seeing: 150 for a weekend to Florence

Additional remarks regarding expenses?

7. Free time

What are must-sees in the area?

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

In Padova you can do everything walking or by bike. The rest is perfect by train, DON'T PARK YOUR BIKE AT THE STATION, it will get stolen.

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

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?

By Monkey bar you can get a really nice and cheap Aperol, try also the peach Aperol.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

We had some trouble with our landlord, they are not used to the Dutch student houses. People from other nationalities are really tired and are frustrated if it is not this way. Also our landlord had this problem, he was not used to the dirtiness of Dutch student houses and didn't like it.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

All the trips I did and the drinks in the city with a lot of people.

9. Contact details (optional)

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