



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	BIL
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	01/09/2023 until 02/02/2024
Exchange destination: University	Universidade do Porto
Faculty	FCUP/FEUP
Country	Portugal
City	Porto

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to study abroad for a while, as I wanted to experience the Mediterranean lifestyle and connect to people with different nationalities.

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

I wanted to go to Southern Europe and preferably to a Technical University, which is the faculty of engineering in Porto. Porto is near the ocean so good for surfing.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

It is possible to get there by FlixBus or car, but most people come by plane. If you happen to have a car it is worth driving, as you will have a lot of joy from the car during your semester.

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	Remote sensing	6	Basics of working with remote sensing software SNAP	3	The course is in Portuguese whilst it says English on the website. The content is very useful however, and as it is mainly programming you can manage.
2	Introduction Photogrammetry	6	Basics of 3D modelling using	3	The course is in Portuguese whilst it says English on the website. UAV part and

			Agisoft and UAV technology		Agisoft practical are useful, theory not so much.
3	Urban and Metropolitan Policies	6	History and application of Urban Policy	3	This course is quite boring to be honest. It does allow you to work on topics of your liking which makes the group projects and individual work ok. Content wise noting wrong with it and a friendly professor.
4	Urban Environmental Management and Planning	6	Nature-based Solutions, Development of urban space and environmental concerns	4	Liked this course the most, especially the projects. The lectures were also interesting with a very goof professor and many guest lectures. NbS part was interesting, environmental part is basic knowledge for WUR students.
5					
6					

What is it like to study there?

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

To be honest, things are a mess at the university. It can take weeks before you have a response to your mails and the introduction was chaotic. Expect it will take some time before everything is fixed and you get your schedules, bureaucratic organisation is not the strongest point here.

Academic level was fine for me, the level of the exams however is lower than in Wageningen. Lectures range from very good to useless depending on the professor. Workload at FEUP is quite high in comparison to other faculties, it is known for that here.

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?

University culture was not so much to my liking, it felt a bit like a high school with student playing computer games during the lectures and a very noisy library.

What does the university offer students additionally?

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

There is catering and sports, but don't expect too much from the university. Better to arrange these things for yourself, it will go much faster.

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?

Best way to get a room via Facebook, can recommend some international houses in the city. I stayed at Joy House 907, which is great.

What is the culture of the country like?

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

Some people in particular people in Porto may act unfriendly to visitors and English if sometimes bad. However, people are mostly very virtuous, and criminality is very low. The Portuguese cuisine is good on fish, try some Arros de Marrisco for sure. Most people are very friendly and polite and will certainly try to help you, especially when you try in Portuguese.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

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

Public transport monthly card sub23 is only around 30 euros, which is a good price. You can take metro to university as busses are not recommended. Uber is also very cheap to use sometimes.

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: 300-500 euro

Groceries: same

Public transport: 30-40 a month

Restaurant/going out for dinner: 20-30 euro

Daytrips/sight-seeing:

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?

Coimbra is a nice city and only an hour away. Aveiro not so special but worth a visit.

Lisbon is definitely worth going for a weekend or so. If you want to surf, do so at Matosinhos when you're a beginner but be careful as the water sometimes is contaminated (especially outside of summer). When you can surf already, go to Espinho.

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

I really like the beach town of Espinho just south of Porto.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?

Aduela is a nice bar, a bit more relaxed than the common Erasmus bars. Mercado Beira Rio is nice to try some fresh fish and other local foods. Plano B is the best nightclub, and Ferro bar is also nice. Port wine tours are a nice activity when it rains.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Don't get mad of the bureaucratic chaos and try to organize yourself as good as possible, Email directly with your professors, it goes much faster.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

The surfing and beach time, as well as a trip to Madeira.

9. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail	Eppe Zandt	