



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Study programme WUR</b>	Master Animal Sciences
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	21/08/2023 until 20/12/2023
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	Purdue University
<b>Faculty</b>	College of Agriculture
<b>Country</b>	United States of America
<b>City</b>	West Lafayette

## 2. Motivation for exchange

### Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to experience how it is to study and life for a longer period in a different country. I wanted to see whether I liked to live in another country. I also think this will look good on my CV later on.

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

I think that the US is a very exciting country and I really wanted to experience living there. And Purdue University is one of the best agricultural universities in the US.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

### Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

Plane works fine, via Indianapolis or Chicago. Then you need to book a shuttle to the University, which is also really easy (just check Google).

## 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	ANSC 34500 Animal Health Management	6	The objectives of this course are to familiarize the student with disease processes and mechanisms. Management techniques in food, companion, and research animal species that minimize or prevent disease will be emphasized, as well as the consequences on animal production, reproduction, and human health.	4	

2	ANSC 44600 Companion Animal Management	6	This course details understanding of the economic scope of the pet industry as well as the role of pets in American society. The students will acquire the information to be responsible pet owners by experiencing their knowledge of housing practices, nutritional care, health care, behavior and breeding of companion animals	3	
3	BIOL 43600 Neurobiology	6	This course will cover key aspects in molecular, cellular, and developmental neurobiology. Topics include: Cell biology of neurons and glia, electrophysiological properties of neurons, electrical and chemical signaling between neurons, synaptic integration and plasticity, development and regeneration of the nervous system, nervous system diseases. Up-to-date research findings and techniques will be included. A basic knowledge of cell biology and protein structure and function is strongly recommended.	5	
4	FS 47000 Wine Appreciation	6	A study of wine production and marketing principles with an emphasis upon consumption responsibility. Historical perspectives form the foundations for wine classification systems and traditional serving procedures. Cardinal scale sensory evaluations are conducted in relationship to various food pairings. Must be 21 years of age or older to register for this course. Permission of department required.	4	
5					
6					

### **What is it like to study there?**

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

It is really fun. I did not think the courses were super difficult. The way of teaching for some courses are quite different though. With the ANSC courses I had barely any tests, it was mostly writing essays and/or a bigger writing project.

### **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?*

Super fun! Very large communities, for every hobby or sport there is one. I would say people are very welcoming too. Therefore, it is quite easy to make friends.

There is also a 'Boiler Gold Rush (BGR)', which is similar to the AID in Wageningen. I also recommend doing that to make some friends and explore the campus.

### **What does the university offer students additionally?**

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

Depends on where you live. I lived in a dorm, so that was a shared room. You shared the bathroom with the whole hallway, but that was also very doable. Laundry facilities are shared (also you need to pay for that). I had no kitchen, so I had to buy a meal plan to eat in the dining courts. The food is pretty good, I honestly had no complaints. A lot of different options, and you can eat as healthy (or unhealthy) as you please.

## 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?*

Be on time, but I think for international students housing is always quite easy to get into. You just have to sign up with the housing portal for a dorm room or apartment. Dorms are cheaper than an apartment but have no kitchen.

There is also opportunity to live in a co-op (big, shared house), but I have no experience with that.

### **What is the culture of the country like?**

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

Very Midwest American core! Very nice people. Sometimes a bit too fake nice though. But I had no real big culture clashes.

### **Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?**

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

The City busses are free for students. You can easily get around campus or go to the city. They don't ride that often though and are sometimes late, so not super reliable. But it does work and they are free.

## 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: 900 (both ways)

Visa if applicable: 300

Vaccinations if applicable: -

Insurances (extra, if applicable): I don't know

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: 3800 for whole semester

Groceries: 150 per month? Groceries are expensive though

Public transport: free

Restaurant/going out for dinner: 100 per month? Cheaper than in the NL

Daytrips/sight-seeing: 1000, but I would say like the NL

### **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?*

Chicago, Indianapolis, Indiana Dunes National Park.

Try to go in the breaks. Find a friend with a car or try Flixbus for larger cities.

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

If you can, explore more of the USA. Such as Las Vegas, New York, Florida, or even Canada.

### **Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?**

*E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?*

The Neon Cactus for a nightclub experience The Tap for a decent bar with no lines.

Restaurants: anything in the centre of Lafayette is fun.

## 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Mental health issues, but there are very good services for that there (free too).

### **What is your best memory of your time abroad?**

All the trips I made! I recommend travelling as much as your schedule and bank account permits.

## 9. Contact details (optional)

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