



# WUR Goes Abroad

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## 1. Student Information

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<b>Study programme WUR</b>	BBN
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	18/09/23 until 08/01/24
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	Reading University
<b>Faculty</b>	Agriculture, policy and development
<b>Country</b>	England
<b>City</b>	Reading

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to experience another culture through living abroad for a longer period. My exchange was also a chance for me to learn different things than I can in Wageningen.

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

The fact they speak English makes it a lot easier in communication. It also gave me the chance to really get better in my English, through speaking with English people.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Go by train! The Eurostar takes you directly to London. Getting to Reading is only a matter of 2 hours max.

## 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	Introduction to Livestock Production	5	An introduction to the aspects of different forms of livestock production. From goat cheese to turkey meat.	2	
2	Agricultural Systems in the Tropics	5	Gave a broad understanding of different agricultural systems in the tropics and how these are applied.	3	
3	Plants, Greenspace and Urban Sustainability	5	Course about all the applied aspects of greenery in urban spaces. We also had an excursion to an urban roof garden.	4	
4	Wildlife and Farming	5	A course about the development in agriculture in the UK. A lot of guest lectures and different views on nature.	3	
5	Culture and Development in Africa	10	A course about 10 different aspect of development in Africa. From agriculture to youth to the HIV/AIDS crisis.	4	

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

The subjects are given once or twice a week, there is in comparison to Wageningen not a heavy workload. The lectures and tutorials are interesting and give you more insight in the study material.

### **What is the culture of the university?**

Because of the small class sizes, it is easy to approach the lecturer during the break or after a lecture. During class there is however not a lot of interaction between students. They are less participatory.

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

There are numerous catering facilities on campus, where you can also get a subscription for a meal plan. This can consist of unlimited free drinks up to three meals a day, depending on the chosen meal plan.

The sports facilities are a bit pricey but there are a lot of nice sports (and active!) committees. They are sort of the substitute for what would be a 'studentenvereniging' in Wageningen.

Laundry can be done close to each of the halls and costs around 3 pounds per load.

## 5. Housing-travelling-living

### **What are the possibilities for housing?**

As a study abroad student, you will get a room on campus if you sign up on time. I found this a really nice given. The rooms are quite spacious, and depending on the building are

quiet. The rooms are private, but have shared kitchens which serve as communal areas. Costs vary from 250 to 400 euros a week.

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

Almost no-one bikes :( . The roads are not really bike-friendly, so everyone uses the busses to get to the city centre on a night out.

Student associations aren't really there, that part of student life can be found in sport associations and other associations. Once a week there is 'Wednesday union', a big club on campus until 2 am.

People are generally quite friendly and are more open to foreigners than in the Netherlands.

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

A bus ticket is around 2 pounds. You can also buy a group ticket which is profitable from 2 persons already. The taxis are also cheaper than in the Netherlands. The trains are however quite pricey. With a railcard, which is 30 pounds, you can get 30% off of all of your travels.

If you live on-campus you can get to classes by foot. It will take a maximum of 20 minutes.

## **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: 70 euros

Visa if applicable: x

Vaccinations if applicable: x

Insurances (extra, if applicable): 30 euro (travel)

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: 900 euro, private room with shared bathroom and kitchen

Groceries: 60 pounds per week

Public transport: 30 pounds per week

Restaurant/going out for dinner: 50 pounds if you go to a real restaurant, can also get something for cheaper.

Daytrips/sight-seeing: 40 pounds

### **Additional remarks regarding expenses?**

## **7. Free time**

### **What are must-sees in the area?**

Next to the apparent option London, I really liked Oxford, it is only 30 minutes by train.

First you take the bus to the train station, and from there you can go anywhere in England. The train station is very big and modern.

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

I really the time when I went by train to Moreton-in-Marsh. It is a small village where you can really explore the nature in the Cotswolds from. This way you can get into nature without a car.

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

In Reading there are a lot of cosy pubs where you should go for a Sunday roast.

Wetherspoons is a chain of bars in which you can get drinks for a better price, they are also quite cosy!

For clubs, there is Club Era, Lola lo etc.

## 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

The way to do groceries. I found that the best way is to go by bus early in the day, to be sure you can get back with the bus.

In terms of social life, I was very pleased. The sport committees held me very busy which I liked, and I met a lot of people through them.

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

Going on our first fieldtrip with the study abroad coach to Brighton. We ate the best fish and chips in town. I really liked the vibe of the city and visited a lot of cool shops.

## 9. Contact details (optional)

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Name/e-mail</b>	Sofie.vanloon@wur.nl	