



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	Landscape architecture
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	25-09-23 until 03-02-24
Exchange destination: University	University of Sheffield
Faculty	Department of landscape architecture
Country	United Kingdom
City	Sheffield

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to see what it was like to live abroad and study landscape related topics at a different university.

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

It was one of the only options in the UK, with an agreement with the WUR, with their own landscape architecture department where I could follow courses at bachelor level. It has a good reputation, interesting courses to choose from and the semester dates work well with those of Wageningen.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

It is easy to fly to Manchester and then taking the train to Sheffield station. In the beginning of the year global opportunities also offer a coach service from Manchester airport to the university residences in Sheffield. Going by train the whole journey is also possible by taking the Eurostar to London and then another train to Sheffield.

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	Lsc31001 Sustainable communities	10	Developing a research poster about a topic related to sustainable communities (e.g. co-design, participation, bottom up planning)	3	Research based course. Module focuses o.a. on improving scientific writing and presentation skills. It involves doing a literature review, case study analysis and making design guidelines.
2	LSC334 Green infrastructures and ecological masterplanning	10	Module centred around a site-based project of a brownfield site. Focus on ecological design	5	Very interesting, nice site visits to brownfield sites. Great lecturers. Offers a new way of looking at the landscape and how to design with what is already there.
3	LSC5010 Urban Futures	10	Site based project. Making a proposal of how we should design landscapes in the future. Focus on temporality and materiality of landscape.	3	Kind of vague but you get a lot of freedom with your submission. It allows you to think outside of the box and choose your own focus. (part group work)
4					
5					
6					

What is it like to study there?

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

(some modules that I first looked into weren't accessible to exchange students, so keep in mind that your modules may change at arrival, but they are helpful with the process)

For each of my modules I had class for 1 full day each week, on which I had lectures, tutorials, group work and self study. The tutorials are often done in small groups. I would say that the academic level and workload is similar to that of Wageningen. Depending on the modules you choose, I would say they focus more on design and the creative side of landscape architecture.

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 classes have less people in them than in Wageningen, about 20/30 people per module. The lecturers are, mostly, very nice and approachable.

What does the university offer students additionally?

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

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?

The university gives you the option to get university accommodation. This is relatively expensive compared to rent in Wageningen. It's might be cheaper to rent commercially in Sheffield, but they often don't take students for 1 semester.

For university accommodation you can choose between 'endcliffe' and 'city' accommodation. I ended up in Endcliffe, pros: nice ensuite room, calm, pretty area with all the basic shops nearby, close to the botanical gardens and endcliffe park. Cons: it's a 25 minute walk to the university.

What is the culture of the country like?

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

The culture is very similar to the Netherlands.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

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

there are buses that go most places. A single ticket is 1.50 pounds (with student discount included). A lot of students choose to walk to university (it's too hilly to bike ☹️, although the university does give you the option to rent one).

Getting an uber is quite cheap here, and if you share one sometimes even cheaper than the bus.

The connection to other cities is quite good. There are direct trains to Manchester, Liverpool, London and Newcastle. (I recommend getting the trainline under 26 railcard for a 30% discount on all journeys.)

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: 0 (visitor visa is enough if u stay 1 semester)

Vaccinations if applicable:

Insurances (extra, if applicable):

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: higher

Groceries: similar/higher

Public transport: similar/higher

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Restaurant/going out for dinner: similar/higher

Daytrips/sight-seeing: similar

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?

- The students union organizes day trips with a coach through 'give it a go'. I would highly recommend going to these, as often they're cheaper than going to a destination yourself by public transport. And they offer visits to most of the interesting places in the area, such as Cambridge, Bakewell, York.
- Sheffield is right next to the Peak-district, so I definitely recommend going there at least once. There are a lot of places to hike and sightsee. There are buses and trains that go there from Sheffield. Interesting places: Bakewell, Castleton, the Monsal trail, Grindleford.
- Not really in the area, but Edinburgh and London are quite easy to travel to by train (if you go for multiple days)

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

Try the British pub food such as pie or a Sunday roast.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?

- o Sharrowvale- and Ecclesall road: independent shops, cute cafes
- o Showroom cinema: movie tickets for 5 pounds.
- o Music venues: yellow arch, octagon, o2 sheffield, the lessar (jazz)
- o Division street (vintage clothing)

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

9. Contact details (optional)

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