



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	Bsc Landschapsarchitectuur en ruimtelijke planning
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	07/09/2023 until 17/12/2023
Exchange destination: University	University of Stirling
Faculty	Faculty of natural sciences
Country	Schotland
City	Stirling

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I like travelling and saw this as an unique opportunity within the study program to go abroad and follow courses that are not taught in Wageningen.

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

I wanted to improve my English, that is why I chose for an English speaking country. I had been in Scotland before and liked the beautiful mountains and landscape.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

I got to Stirling by ferry and train. From the Netherlands there are ferries running to both Hull and Newcastle.

It is also possible to go all the way by train with the Eurostar or by plane to Glasgow or Edinburgh airport.

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	Navigation and mountain skills	10	Navigation in the Scottish mountains, safety, mountain weather, access laws.	5	Not very difficult, but I learnt a lot and with the field days it is a good way to see some more of Scotland. The class was very small, which made teachers more approachable.
2	Human Anatomy and Physiology	10	Learn about the different systems in the human body	3	Comparable to human physiology in Biology at high school, but than more elaborate. Practicals are fun.
3	Glaciers and Landscape	10	Learn about types and behaviour of glaciers and glaciation around the world, also in Scotland.	4	Very little contact hours, course content was interesting.
4					
5					
6					

What is it like to study there?

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

There are less contact hours, so you have to plan most of the workload yourself. Level is the same or a little less than WUR, depending on the specific course.

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?

Very comparable to Wageningen, lecturers are quite approachable. Engagement with local students is in general easier through clubs/societies than with courses.

What does the university offer students additionally?

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

They have very good sports facilities eg Gym, swimming pool, outdoor & indoor pitches for a range of sports.

At the accommodations are laundry facilities available. On campus is also a pharmacy and a small supermarket, but for groceries it is more convenient to go to the supermarket in the city.

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?

You can sign up for housing via the university. International students have a few options, I was in Alexander court which was nice but a bit away from other accommodation.

What is the culture of the country like?

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

Scottish culture is to some extent comparable to the rest of the UK. The Scottish people are very kind and willing to help.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

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

Regular busses run between the university and Stirling city. From Stirling you can go to a lot of places by bus or train. It is advisable to apply for a Young Scots card as soon as possible since this will provide you with free bus travel throughout Scotland and also discounts at for example castle entrance.

Also, get yourself a nextbike account. With your university e-mail you have the first 30 min free every time you rent a bike. This is long enough to get to the city centre.

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: I paid €150 for the ferry to Hull

Visa if applicable: For less than 6 months no visum is required

Vaccinations if applicable: N/A

Insurances (extra, if applicable): N/A

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: Flat with 6, shared bathroom and kitchen. It was €2300 for the semester (~550/month).

Groceries: higher

Public transport: equal

Restaurant/going out for dinner:

Daytrips/sight-seeing:

Additional remarks regarding expenses?

In general expenses are a bit higher than in the Netherlands. Also look at conversion rates seen the different currency.

7. Free time

What are must-sees in the area?

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

The mountains, both Trossachs and Cairngorms are beautiful. Downside is that they are quite difficult to reach by public transport. You can join the mountaineering club, which is very fun and they organise trips regularly.

Cities like Edinburgh, Glasgow and Perth are also worth a visit and are well accessible by train or Citylink buses. In Stirling the castle and Wallace Monument are really must-sees.

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

If you get the possibility, participating in a Ceilidh is quite a unique experience.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?

Join some clubs/societies, there are a lot of them. This is a fun way to spend time doing something you like and get to know new people.

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?**

I went on a trip to Isle of Arran with my flatmates, which was lovely. But there are so many good memories I made.

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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