



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Master Food Technology
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	09/01/2023 until 19/05/2023
Country (exchange)	France
City (exchange)	Toulouse
University (exchange)	École d'Ingénieurs de Purpan
Faculty (exchange)	Agroalimentaire

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I hadn't had an experience abroad yet and I wanted to expand my horizons, improve my French and learn what it is like to live alone in a different country.

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

I wanted to learn French, so that is why I chose France. And I heard that Toulouse was the best student city in France, so that is why I chose Toulouse.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination? (E.g. bus, train, etc.)

I took the flibus, because I did not want to fly. It was a night in the bus which was alright but not very pleasant. I think the train would be better but it was more expensive.

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	Food resources & nutrition	3	Food security issues around the world.	2	We didn't really learn a lot, there were a lot of 'games', I would have preferred lectures
2	GEOPOLITICS & GLOBAL TRADE	3	French agricultural and agrifood products on markets such as USA, Sub-Saharan Africa, China, Russia and Middle East.	2	Same as in the previous course
3	COMMODITIES TRADE	3	Sugar, wheat, soybeans, coffee and cacao in the international commodities market.	2	Information could have been interesting but the presenters were hard to follow
4	WORKING ACROSS CULTURES	3	Cross-cultural communication in international business.	4	Nice course
5	FRENCH LANGUAGE AND INTERCULTURAL ISSUES OF STUDY ABROAD	3	Basic knowledge of French that enables students to deal with everyday situations (level A1/A2 to B1) and to understand French cultural identity.	4	I liked the French part, some basic knowledge of French was taught which was very nice at the beginning of the semester
6	French course B2	3	French course	5	The teacher was very nice and interesting and I learned a lot about the language and culture

How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)

I would not say that the courses are of academic level, there were a lot of games, for example and escape game that we had to make which had nothing to do with the course content. The days were very long, often from 9 until 5 which was very tiring.

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 university is very small, it feels more like a high school. The people from the international office are very approachable and will help you with any problem you encounter. But the freedom that I am used to at university is completely lacking, because all the hours are mandatory.

What does the university offer the student additionally? (E.g. Catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?)

There are no extra facilities. The BDE, which is something like the university council organizes some parties and activities.

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?)

I found a room quite quickly via an Erasmus platform for housing. There are no rooms on campus, but we got an email from the international office at purpan with some possibilities for housing and they could also help you find a room if you couldn't find anything. The rent is similar as in the Netherlands I think. Maybe a little bit more expensive because you rent a furnished room for a short time.

What is the culture of the country like? (E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?)

It is quite similar but there are also some difference. French people really like to strike and they are less direct than dutch people. They eat a lot of meat.

Could you give a general price indication of the place of residence compared to living in Wageningen?

I payed 520 euros for my room of 11 m2, but the apartment also had a living room and all the furnishing was very new and well maintained.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure? (E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?)

You can get a tisseo card which is valid in all the public transport in Toulouse for approximately 12 euros a month. I rented a bike, which was 8 euros a month. I didn't use taxis.

6. Free time

What are must-sees in the area? (E.g. nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?)

Albi and Carcassone are nice cities close by to visit. The pyrenees are also very nice for a hike when you have a car. Every first weekend of the month the trains cost only 1 euro so that are always good weekends to take the train and explore nearby cities.

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

I think Toulouse itself is a very nice city. There are almost no tourists so that is good. It is a pretty city with a lot of good places to eat or drink.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time (E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?)

- Sitting by the river Garonne
- Getting croissants at Loma
- Going for tea at Bapz
- Seeing canal du Midi
- Taking a boat tour over the Garonne
- Seeing Capitole
- Eating lunch at O'saj
- Drinks at bar Basque

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

There were strikes very often which was very annoying and it could make me very angry that I could not take public transport or go into the city center and that my flights had a lot of delay. This was very frustrating.

What was your best memory abroad?

I really liked spending time with a the amazing people I got to know and try to find the best croissant of Toulouse. I am also proud of the progress I made in my French.

8. Contact details (optional)

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