



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	Business- and Consumer studies
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	15/09/2023 – 17/01/2024
Exchange destination: University	Universitat de Barcelona
Faculty	Facultat d'Economia i Empresa
Country	Spain
City	Barcelona

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

It is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Besides, I think it is really good for your personal development alongside your academic development. I felt like I needed a new adventure so this opportunity was the perfect chance.

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

I had Spanish in high school and wanted to check my level in Spanish here in Spain. I've been to Barcelona before and I liked the culture of this city. Not to forget the beach and the sea, I like them as well. Furthermore, the Universitat de Barcelona was fairly reputable compared to other universities in Spain.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

If this is an transportation question then I guess go for the option that suits you best. Barcelona can be reached by auto, bus or plane.

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	English for business	6		2	
2	Strategic Management	6		3	
3	Foundation of Business	6		4	
4	Game theory of Business	6		4	
5	International Marketing	6		5	
6					

What is it like to study there?

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

To be honest, the academic level of this University is lower than the average level of universities in the Netherlands. The way of teaching is different compared to uni's in Holland. I would say it is much more classroom learning and less independent. At the Universitat de Barcelona you have the option with almost every course to do continuous assessment, it means you can get parts of your final grade already during the whole semester by doing little assignments. This is different from the examination in Holland as well.

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?

Lecturers are really approachable. The lecturers I had were willing to help and open to conversations. In my classrooms there weren't much local students, but I got the chance to have little chats with some of them. It was fun and you should do it too. As I said before, the lectures are more collective.

What does the university offer students additionally?

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

My uni had a sunny balcony. All uni's in Barcelona sell beer in the uni canteens.

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?

There are many many options to get a room. Platforms as Idealista, Housinganywhere, Uniplaces and much more. For Barcelona there are also Dutch groupchats with all the

Dutchies in Barcelona, like 900 each group. In those chats there are offered many rooms as well.

What is the culture of the country like?

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

"Mañana mañana" I would say. Everything is more relaxed compared to Holland. There is no sense of rush, which can be a downside when in line at the supermarket. Apart from that, it's chill. Nice food like tapas and many other things.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

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

When you go to Barcelona the way to go is the T-jove card. You can get it at metro stations for 40 euros. With this card you can make use of whatever public transport in Barcelona and even outside Barcelona (to a certain border/zones) for 3 whole months! Compared to Holland this is crazy cheap.

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:

Vaccinations if applicable:

Insurances (extra, if applicable):

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: I would say the average room is 600/650 euros /month

Groceries: personal, on average the costs in supermarkets are a bit lower.

Public transport: 40 euros for 3 months. I had Swapfiets as well for 15euros/month.

Restaurant/going out for dinner: personal

Daytrips/sight-seeing: personal

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 Bunkers

El balconet (bar with view)

Bogatell beach (best beach)

Arc de Triomf

Parc Cuitadella

La mercè festival
La Terrazza (club)

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

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

Go to the beach with bike or play padel. Invest time in meeting new people, you will thank yourself later.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Finding a room: keep on searching intensively day after day and you will find one.

Figure out metro system: after two weeks of using the metro the system makes completely sense and it is really clear.

Administrative things for exchange: pay close attention to the files you deliver to both your home uni and receiving uni. Deliver in time and correctly.

Finding people to stick with: you start your exchange adventure alone but it is in your hands to not end it alone I would say. Just text people to have a drink or say yes whenever other people text you. It is the way to go in the beginning, you'll find out yourself.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

It was a multi-day hike in the Pyrenees. But apart from that it was going on all kinds of adventures with new people.

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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