



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	BBC
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	05/09/2023 until 09/02/2023
Exchange destination: University	University of Barcelona
Faculty	Economía y Empresas
Country	Spain
City	Barcelona

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

Meet new people (from different nationalities), have a good time and experience what it is like to live abroad.

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

I wanted to go to a big city, preferably with good weather, in Spain

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

Taking the plane is the easiest and most convenient way. To get from the airport to the place you're staying I'd recommend the taxi or aerobus if it stops close to your place. It could be quite stressing and exhausting if you just arrived in a new city with hot weather with heavy luggage and you take public transportation, speaking from experience.

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	Financial markets and institutions	6	Teaches about everything and everyone that is involved in the money market, such as banks, bonds, shares and interest	3	Interesting, but does not dive deep into the material. I followed some BEC courses at the WUR and was familiar with most of the topics. Course was not very hard, because of this.
2	Strategic management	6	Gives an insight in all the tools that can be used to make strategic decisions for a business.	3	Lectures were boring and topics was familiar with most topics. Exam was hard compared to other courses.
3	Business creations	6	You go through all the steps to set up a business, from coming up with an idea to financing.	4	Fun course, some topics like how to make a mind map are not very relevant to be taught. You apply all that you have learnt into a group project in which you start your own fictional business, which is quite fun.
4	Organisation management	6	Teaches about everyone involved in an organisation and how everyone interacts with each other.	2	Wasn't what I expected and didn't really like it.
5					
6					

What is it like to study there?

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

All courses are taken simultaneously, and since each course exists of two two hours lectures a week, this is quite intensive compared to the WUR. The level of the courses were below what I was used to, and even though I was taking 3rd or 4th year courses, it was not very hard. For all courses you could choose between doing only the exam or doing assignments (sometimes combined with an exam) to make up your grade.

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 lectures were easy to approach and really wanted to help you. It is very easy to engage with other students, since most of them are also Erasmus students. It was harder to engage with local students, since most of them only took courses in Spanish or Catalan. The major differences with WUR are that at the UB you have more lectures but

less self-study, the level at the UB is lower and is less scientific and at the UB you take all your courses in smaller classes with not more than 40 people.

What does the university offer students additionally?

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

There is a canteen and a library at the faculty, those are the only additional facilities I made use of.

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 offered rooms, but I didn't make use of them. There is plenty of websites to find a room, I used Spotahome. A disadvantage is that they provide an overview of different landlords and those landlords offer their rooms on multiple websites like Spotahome. Therefore it is easy to get an overbooking, which I had. Rent rates are starting from €300, and the closer you get to the city centre, the more expensive it gets.

What is the culture of the country like?

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

The main difference I encountered was that dinner is much later, sometimes even at 23:00. Also the parties start later around 02:00 and end at 06:00. But you get used to this quickly and in the end I prefer it over the Dutch times.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

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

The public transport card, T-jove, costs €40 for three months. Public transport is the best way to get around the city and get to university. Taxi prices are low, often not more than €10 euro. I also rented a Swapfiets, but I did not really like to cycle in Barcelona since the biking infrastructure is not very good and lots of people walk on the bicycle lanes.

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: €150

Visa if applicable: -

Vaccinations if applicable: -

Insurances (extra, if applicable): €7 in total, are offered by the university

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: €950 for a room in 7 room apartment, next to Placa Catalunya

Groceries: €250

Public transport: €40 for three months

Restaurant/going out for dinner: €200

Daytrips/sight-seeing: €200

Additional remarks regarding expenses?

Prices are generally lower compared to the Netherlands, but you can make it as expensive as you like.

7. Free time

What are must-sees in the area?

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

I liked the Montjuic area, since it is a bit less crowded over there. I also enjoyed the viewing points like Tibidabo and the bunkers. Also with Ryanair you can buy cheap tickets, we went to Sevilla for €35 which is really worth a visit.

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

The Poblenou neighbourhood.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?

I really liked to go out in Razzmatazz. Regarding the restaurants, if you see a bar/restaurant with mostly locals, it is a good place with affordable prices.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

My phone got stolen in the metro when it was very busy during new year's night. So always be careful, especially during busy times. Pickpockets often distract you when they strike and they work in teams.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

There is too many, but one of them is when my friends came to visit me for a couple of days.

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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