



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Study programme WUR</b>	BIN
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	02-09-2023 until 03-02-2024
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	Ca' Foscari
<b>Faculty</b>	Humanities
<b>Country</b>	Italy
<b>City</b>	Venice

## 2. Motivation for exchange

### Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to go on exchange to travel and meet new people. I think studying in another country is a valuable experience as you learn how people in other country acquire their knowledge, and I think it is interesting to understand the differences.

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

Grant-wise, I wanted to stay in Europe, and then Italy would be my favourite country because of the weather and culture.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

### Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

To reach the destination you can best take the Flixbus (cheapest and fastest) or the Nightjet by ÖBB to Innsbruck, and another train from Innsbruck to Venice (most comfortable).

## 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	Migration and global transformations	6	I liked the course! It remains very superficial if you already followed some courses about it, but the readings are really interesting, and I loved to write the paper for the course.	4	
2	Environmental Humanities: an introduction	6	This course was really really cool I found. It is the intro to the whole master, and touches upon many topics, with the new environmental humanities lens. Although I found myself very left and bottom up already, this shed a new light on the whole world. A lot of excursions and impressive lecturers are included, and art is represented a lot. As final exam you had to write an essay or make an artwork.	5	Highly recommended
3	Environments and societies of the islamicate countries	6	I think I expected something else, and it took me a while to understand so. Every week a country/region is discussed and connected to a certain way in which their society is designed with nature (so water: qanat in Iraq) and some lectures are about how certain environmental topics are seen according to the quran. It was mainly the readings	3	

			that were interesting, and cool to learn more about the Middle East which I didn't know anything of. But it's not like other Environmental Humanities classes.		
4	Public participation and environmental governance in China	6	This course was very clear and in how it was built the most similar to WUR courses to me. The teacher is fun, knows a lot and teaches a lot of theory, that he then also applies to China, where he has lived, worked and done research. So really interesting course where you learn a lot, and very much focussed on different forms of learning and studying.	4	
5					
6					

### **What is it like to study there?**

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

The level of study is a similar but slightly lower than bachelors courses, if you follow master courses in Italy. The lectures are kind of similar, but you work in semesters and have all courses at the same time. The exams are often oral. The workload is just good if you read everything they ask for and follow the schedule.

### **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?*

Italians love to speak Italian, so it is sometimes hard to be in contact with a group of Italian students if you don't speak the language. I recommend learning it. The lecturers are very approachable and the English is good.

### **What does the university offer students additionally?**

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

There is a mensa in the middle of Venice to have lunch, but it is never mentioned so you really have to know this. There are some sports activities like kayaking and some students teams but it isn't very open. For every sport facility in Italy you need a declaration that your health is in good condition, so arrange this beforehand, it costs quite some money (like €60?) to do this in Italy. The university has some campuses in which there is laundry facility, but only for if you live there.

## 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?*

If you stay for only one semester, there are almost no options for dormitories (all for one year at least). You have to find a room via Facebook and Telegram groups. This is quite hard. Finding a room in Mestre is cheaper, but on the mainland. On the island, the rent is much higher, so don't be surprised to pay more than €600.

### **What is the culture of the country like?**

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

There is of course a lot of pasta and pizza. Apart from that, there are loads of cafes to have aperitivo, and the atmosphere is nice.

### **Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?**

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

In Venice as a student, you can get the Venezia Unica card, which costs €25 a month and allows you to take any vaporetto (ferry), bus and tram within the region of Veneto. Within Venice, however, often the fastest way is to travel by foot, or vaporetto otherwise.

## 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: €200 (train)

Visa if applicable: -

Vaccinations if applicable: -

Insurances (extra, if applicable): -

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: room in Mestre, €400

Groceries: €200

Public transport: €25

Restaurant/going out for dinner: depends a lot on the place: €3-€30

Daytrips/sight-seeing: €30

### **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 islands Murano, Burano, Guidecca, Lido (beach), but also the cities Treviso, Padova, Verona, Vincenza, Bologna, Firenze, Roma. And even better: the Dolomites.

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

The social centres: About, Rivolta and Morion. Parks: Santa Helena, San Giuliano

**Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?**

*E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?*

Campo Santa Margarita is a good place for drinks and pizza.

## 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

There is hardly any nature in Venice. But you can go to the mountains nearby for that, or to the parks, but they are far as well.

**What is your best memory of your time abroad?**

The mountains and the drinks in the social centres.

## 9. Contact details (optional)

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
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