



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student information

<b>Study programme WU</b>	Bachelor biology
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	until
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	Aberystwyth
<b>Faculty</b>	Life sciences
<b>Country</b>	United Kingdom
<b>City</b>	Aberystwyth

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I had some spare time between my bachelors and master and I wanted to use that to do extra courses and thought this was an excellent opportunity to go abroad.

### b. What is the reason you chose for this country?

I had a lot of options of where I could go to but Wales had my preference because the country is beautiful and I would be able to travel a lot in the UK from Wales.

### c. What is the reason you chose for this university?

Aberystwyth was one of the options I could go to in the UK, but it's one of the only universities in Wales and the town is directly next to the sea which I really liked. The courses were specialized in different topics than in Wageningen so I could try to do something else.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

### a. Do you have any advice about reaching your exchange destination?

I doubted if I would take the train to London and then to Aberystwyth, because at first I didn't want to fly. However, it takes a day to reach Aberystwyth from London so it's more convenient to fly and it was cheaper. I flew in on Birmingham and took a direct train to Aber from there.

## 4. University and studying

### a. 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
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<b>1</b>	Climate change	10	The course focusses on plants, animals and ecosystems and how they are influenced by different aspects of climate change.	2	The plant part of the course was really easy, but the animal part was focused a lot on bird behaviour.
<b>2</b>	Microbial pathogenesis	10	The course focusses on all kinds of pathogens and how they interact with their host, like HIV, TB and plant diseases.	5	I really liked the lectures and the assignments.
<b>3</b>	Parasitology	10	The course focusses on all kinds of parasites, their lifecycles and their pathogen-host relationship.	4	I really liked some of the topics, like malaria and nematodes, but some were not really my thing.

**b. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses that were taught in English (Yes, No - Explain):** Yes, all the courses are taught in English and some even in Welsh.

**c. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest (Yes, No - Explain):** Yes, I had a lot of courses I could chose from because biology is quite a broad bachelor.

**d. I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed (Yes, No - Explain):** Yes, at first I thought it would be easy, but the examination is different than in Wageningen so I had to work for that in the end. You have to be able to citate papers at your exam.

**e. I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed (Yes, No - Explain):** Yes, I'm satisfied because I really liked most of the topics.

**f. What is it like to study there?**

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

It's different than Wageningen, because you only have 2 or 3 lectures per week for 1 course and 1 lecture is 50 minutes, but there is a lot more selfstudy. The examination for my courses was different because I had to write an essay by hand and citate papers I had read on different topics.

**g. What is the culture of the university?**

*E.g. How approachable are the lecturers, engagement with local students? What are the differences with WU?*

The lecturers are really approachable and want to help you. Engagement with local students can be hard, because its mostly lectures and not a lot of groupwork or practicals. However, the students are open to engagement and the university does a lot to support this.

**h. What does the university offer students additionally?**

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

There are different catering options on campus and there is a big sport complex like the Bongerd which is free to use if you are in university housing.

## 5. Housing-traveling-living

**a. What are the possibilities for housing?**

*E.g. Availability to sign up for a room on campus, private rooms, rent rates?*

There is a lot of university housing, studio's, flats and houses with 4-8 people.

**b. What is the culture like?**

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

The people are more open than Dutch people and are willing to help you any moment. For me a big difference was that Aber is next to the sea so I walked to the beach a lot.

**c. Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?**

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

Busses and taxis are cheap and used a lot. Especially taxis to go back up the hill after going out in the centre, because the busses stop at 8 pm.

## 6. Expenses

**a. Can you give an indication of your expenses for/during your exchange?**

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	200
Visa - if applicable	-
Vaccinations - if applicable	-
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	-
Daytrips/sight-seeing	
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	
Grocery costs per month	
Public transport costs per month	
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	

**b. The price levels were in general [higher; lower; equal] in comparison to in the Netherlands:** The prices were higher than in the Netherlands which could be noticed while doing groceries. Public transport was equal.

**c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?**

## 7. Free time

### a. What are must-sees in the area?

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

I travelled a lot with trains, for example I did an easter trip (two weeks) to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast and Dublin, but travelling in Wales by bus is extremely cheap. A day ticket where you can use most of the busses going through Wales was 6 pounds. Another must see is Pembrokeshire, Snowdonia and Brecon beacons.

### b. What does not appear in a travel guide, but is definitely worth seeing/doing?

The coastal paths are everywhere and free to use so that's definitely something worth doing. Around New Quay and Strumblehead (more south) you have excellent chances of seeing seals and dolphins.

## 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

### a. Any challenges? How did you deal with them?

I was a little stressed if I would make friends fast or not, but ESN is really invested in doing activities and organising stuff which was a lot of fun and in the end I already met two of my good friends in the train to Aber from Birmingham on the first day.

### b. Best memory?

I think my best memory was travelling around Scotland and Ireland (especially Belfast) with three of my best friends.

## 9. Contact details

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