



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student information

Study programme WU	BSc Food Technology
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	05/02/2024 until 28/06/2024
Exchange destination: University	AgroParisTech
Faculty	Sciences et Industries du Vivant et de l'Environnement
Country	France
City	Paris

2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to experience something different. I wanted to learn in a different country to experience a new way of teaching, learning and gain new perspectives.

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

It wasn't my initial choice but since I speak French and France is known for its agro-industry, which is my field of study, I thought why not.

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

The university ranking and reputation was quite good.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

The train, it is a bit expensive but much more enjoyable and comfortable than a flight I would say.

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
1	The Seafood supply chain: from capture fisheries to aquaculture and world markets.	2.5	Provide the key elements for understanding the functioning of the aquatic products sector and the characteristics of its dynamics on a global	5	Truly an eye-opening course. The teacher was exceptional! (probably the best I have ever had in my life). I enjoyed it so much that I decided to do an internship in

			scale, with a particular focus on the French situation. Understand the general state of world fisheries and French fisheries. Through selected examples treated by experts on the subject, understand the functioning of aquaculture sectors, from production to markets. Discover the processing of aquatic products through examples and company tours.		aquaculture! I definitely recommend this course if you enjoy natural sciences, sustainability topics and economics.
2	Public Policies and Food Security	1.5	Understand what the concept of food security covers, the evolution and extent of food insecurity in the world, the links with agricultural and rural development as well as public policies, whether agricultural, food or commercial.	4	It was well-designed course but, in my opinion, a bit too short. At the end of the course, we had to deliver a presentation about the evolution of China with respect to food security and policies in the last 60 years. Quite challenging but very interesting!
3	Macroeconomics	2.5	The origins of macroeconomics: Keynes' "General Theory". The multiple developments and applications of the IS/LM model Growth theory. The major contemporary theoretical controversies. Monetary policy Budgetary policy. The CUs "Economic analysis", "Economics of the environment and natural resources", "Ecological economy.	5	I think this a basic course to gain an understanding of our current world economy, its dynamic and its current and future challenges.
4	Innovation methods in the cosmetic industries	1.5	Know how to define the different stages of the design process for a new cosmetic product. Know how to define the professions involved in this process and their	5	A very insightful course with a week spent in the French Cosmetic Valley, where R&D lab of brands like Dior, Guerlain, Givenchy, etc. are located. We visited some of the

			respective roles. Understand the ongoing innovation challenges and the evolution of innovation practices that the major players in the sector are implementing. Know the sustainability and competition issues in this sector. Identify new innovative design practices implemented to respond to them.		previously mentioned companies and we had lectures but also lab practical to design our own cosmetic product.
5	Innovation in agri-food industries: from idea to model	10	The objective of this project is to familiarize students with the creation of new concepts and prototypes of products - food and/or packaging - and the definition of business models from an ecological transition perspective	5	A complete course where I learned the technical aspects of developing a food product (processing methods, formulation, nutritional value, etc.) but also its business model. I learned how to perform market research, how to make a business plan and how to make sales forecast. We also had to learn how to make an environmental assessment of our product and its packaging (LCA).

b. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses that were taught in English (Yes, No - Explain): No, most of the courses were only offered in French.

c. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest (Yes, No - Explain): Yes, plenty of them. The university has many different courses for various topics from plant sciences to food and cosmetic or even coding you can have everything!

d. I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed (Yes, No - Explain): Yes, I gained valuable knowledge and a new perspective on my field of study.

e. I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed (Yes, No - Explain): Yes, I deliberately chose different courses to have the possibility to learn from different topics. I am particularly satisfied with certain courses such as the one in aquaculture.

f. What is it like to study there?

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

The structure was quite similar to WUR. We had lectures, tutorials and a final assessment. The only difference was that the courses were lasting 2-3 weeks meaning that the workload was quite intense and condensed. The academic level was sufficient and similar to WUR. The examination was either a written exam or a report with a final presentation. The course content was uploaded by teachers either before or after a lecture/tutorial on a platform similar to Brightspace. The grades are also uploaded there.

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?

Teachers are nice and accessible. You can ask them questions during or after class but also send them e-mails regarding course related matters if needed. The local students were hard to get to know I found as they had their group of friends already, so they had little interest in knowing new people. I had to fight my way through it and I eventually met new people by being introducing myself regularly to people, have lunch with classmates or work together after class. My advice would be don't be shy and worst thing that can happen is they say no! Whereas in Wageningen people are much more open-minded and considerate I found.

h. What does the university offer students additionally?

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

They have a catering service at 3.3€/service in which you have a starter, a main course and a dessert included. Water is free of charge. You can have lunch and dinner on campus, and depending on where you live you can have access to different student catering services. I lived on a student campus, so I had a catering service nearby. Regarding sports you can sign up to any activities you want just like at the WUR. In terms of housing, the host university helped me find an accommodation in which I had a room for myself with a bathroom, a shared kitchen and a laundry service (2.5€/use).

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?

The university helps you find an accommodation depending on the availabilities. You can have rooms on- and off-campus. I had a private room off-campus in the city center of Paris and the rent was 543€/month.

b. What is the culture like?

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

French people (particularly in Paris) can be seen as rude, careless and arrogant. It's true... However, the food is good! They have late diner compared to the Netherlands, around 8pm.

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

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

I did a subscription which was quite expensive (342€/year) but you have access to everything, tramway, bus, metro and underground and to all areas (pay attention to that!). You can also have monthly subscription for 86€/month. To go to the university, I had to

take the bus (provided by the university) and to go back I had to take the train (~1h). Taxis are quite expensive and be careful with scams! I personally took Ubers mostly.

6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	150€
Visa - if applicable	-
Vaccinations - if applicable	-
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	-
Daytrips/sight-seeing	Free for < 26 years old
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	From 300 to 600€
Grocery costs per month	From 150 to 200€
Public transport costs per month	86€
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	100 – 150€

b. The price levels were in general [higher; lower; equal] in comparison to in the Netherlands: Equal.

c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?

Groceries can be quite expensive depending on where you go. I suggest you visit your neighborhood and compare prices.

7. Free time

a. What are must-sees in the area?

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

Plenty of museums to see, Paris is nice by foot and transports are effective.

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

Don't hesitate to get lost in the city center and explore!

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

It was quite challenging to make friends and meet new people as the local students already had their group of friends and the university/student associations did not organise many events for Erasmus students. So, I was mostly friends and hanging out with internationals and Erasmus students. The few french friends I had were classmates.

b. Best memory?

I was in Montmartre with my girlfriend at the time, a very romantic place and a nice view on Paris! I would definitely recommend!

9. Contact details

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