



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student information

Study programme WU	BSc Plantenwetenschappen
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	01/02/2024 until 28/06/2024
Exchange destination: University	University of Algarve
Faculty	Marine Biology
Country	Portugal
City	Faro

2. Motivation for exchange

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

Because I wanted to experience living and studying abroad with international students.

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

The people are nice and the weather is amazing.

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

In this university marine biology is the best course they have.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

By plane it is the best to get 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
1	Marine Ecosystems	6	Different ecosystems in the ocean	3	
2	Fisheries and Aquaculture	6	Different types of fisheries and aquaculture	4	
3	Chemical Processes in the Ocean	6	Chemical elements in the ocean	4	

4	Portuguese Language Course	5		5	
5					
6					

b. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses that were taught in English (Yes, No - Explain): No. Initially I applied for master courses because they were taught in English. Upon arrival I was told I could only follow bachelor courses as a bachelor student, and all bachelor courses are taught in Portuguese at this university.

c. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest (Yes, No - Explain): Yes. They have a wide range of fun courses to do.

d. I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed (Yes, No - Explain): Yes. It was easier than Wageningen University but I do feel like I learned some things.

e. I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed (Yes, No - Explain): Yes. The courses I chose offered a wide variety.

f. What is it like to study there?

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

I could only study by translating the PowerPoint slides, so we did not get much material to study from. The examination was doable.

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 and the local students were really nice for the Erasmus students and they wanted to help if possible. The biggest difference with WU is that everything is not as well organised as in the WU.

h. What does the university offer students additionally?

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

There is a canteen where you get a 3-course meal for 3.25 euros, and also lots of other food options on campus.

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?

It was impossible to get into the dorm on campus. But it was quite easy to get a room rented through the ESN group or via Idealista.

b. What is the culture like?

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

Overall the country is less organised than Netherlands with regards to public transport, administration, etc.

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

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

Bolt/Uber are very affordable. The bus is free for people below the age of 24. The train has discount for people under the age of 26 and is affordable for short travels. For longer travels Flixbus is very nice.

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	25
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	330
Grocery costs per month	30
Public transport costs per month	Free for students <24
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	45

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

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?

The whole Algarve is nice to visit, and Porto and Lisbon are also worth a visit. Spain is relatively close and is also nice to spent vacation.

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

See the sunset near the marina or at the beach, and afterwards go to the rooftop of Pipers.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Having all my courses in Portuguese. At the beginning its annoying because you do not understand anything. But eventually I learned to appreciate this once in a life time experience of having courses in such a different language.

b. Best memory?

Too many good memories to write one down.

9. Contact details

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name & email address (if yes)	Tosca, toska.overwater@wur.nl	