



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student information

Study programme WU	Bachelor Bedrijfs en consumentenwetenschappen
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	05/02/2024 until 20/06/2024
Exchange destination: University	Universitat de Barcelona
Faculty	Faculty of economics and business
Country	Spain
City	Barcelona

2. Motivation for exchange

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

I've always wanted to study abroad since I started studying. I thought of it as a once in a lifetime chance to go and live in another country for a longer period of time.

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

I wanted to stay in a big city, something completely different than Wageningen. Spain had large cities, and good weather, which quickly made it my preferred destination. This also gave me the motivation to start learning spanish, which is something I've always wanted to do, but never ended up doing.

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

Barcelona is one of the largest cities of Spain, and is located next to the sea. Which provided me with everything I was looking for. A metropolitan feeling that would be completely different to Wageningen, and a nice geographical location where I could enjoy my free time at the beach.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I went by plane. There is a possibility to go by train. But then I would have had to move through Paris with all of my luggage for 5 months because the trains depart from different train stations. This made me choose to go by plane.

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	International Marketing	6	Learned what to keep in mind if your company would want to expand to a new county.	3	Rather easy, half of the course is groupwork. Weekly presentations to show the teacher your progress.
2	Organization, innovation, technology	6	We were supposed to learn about innovation and technology but we ended up only discussing Innovation Disstricts	4	Very easy, the teacher was very nice. The course was questionable, it was basically just groupwork with a low workload. No exam.
3	Sustainable development	6	Learned a lot about many different views and concepts regarding development	4	Course seemed hard during the semester, but the exam ended up being fine. But a lot of different topics were covered which made it quite intimidating. First time that the course was given. The workload for this course was higher.
4	Economic policies	6	Learned about policy making and the economic history behind it.	3	The course was hard, and the grades were low/many people did not pass. The teachers was nice and could explain very well.
5	Sociology of occupations	6	Learned many sociological concepts and views related to the working environment	5	Very cute teacher, the lessons were easy and not always useful (like having to upload a fake cv and motivation letter)
6					

b. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses that were taught in English (Yes, No - Explain):

Yes, many different courses were taught in english. There are many international students, and even some spanish students take the English courses because they would match their schedule better.

c. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest (Yes, No - Explain):

Yes, the faculty had a broad range of subjects and courses in english

d. I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed (Yes, No - Explain):

This really depended on the specific course. Overall I was satisfied. But the spanish system is different. And if you do the continuous assessment instead of single evaluation, the course becomes easier (in my opinion). Some courses ended up being a bit to easy, but with so many courses at the same time (5 courses, all having their exam in the last 2 weeks), it was nice because it made the workload manageable.

e. I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed (Yes, No - Explain):

Yes, I am very satisfied. I experienced a completely different way of teaching from what I was used to. The material that was covered also was something I would not be able to have learned in Wageningen, since it was a economic faculty.

f. What is it like to study there?

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

Very different from what I was used to. People would just arrive 20 minutes late and the teacher did not mind. The classes also mostly consisted of 20-25 people, which is different to what I am used. The type of examination depended on the lecturer. The workload throughout the semester was higher than what I was used to, because I chose continuous assessment for all of my courses.

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 were very approachable. We even started all of our courses with a classical introduction. So everyone in the course had to say their name and where they were from, and the teacher was genuinely interested. The engagement with local students depended on the course. In some courses there were only international students. But in the classes with some spanish people, I happened to befriend 2 spanish girls. They invited me to their parents house and to see their hometown.

h. What does the university offer students additionally?

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

The uni has cafeterias with a broad range of dishes. Not only bread with ham and cheese or baked things. They also have warm lunch with pizza and pasta options. There is a sporting facility on the campus that you can go to. I haven't been, but friends of mine played tennis there. There are also multiple libraries you can go to to study, but it is very different from what we are used to in Wageningen. They are only open from 9-7 or something and there are (almost) no power outlets (like in the rest of the building)

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?

I had friends that arranged their room through the university. I however, hired an entire apartment with 4 other dutch girls in the city centre. Just take a good look at the pictures, some of my friends had no real windows in their rooms, or ended up having a mouldy ceiling...

b. What is the culture like?

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

The culture is rather different. It is no exception to eat around 9.30pm (but you'll get adjusted very quickly to this). Overall going out for dinner is way cheaper than in the Netherlands, so within my friendgroup we went out for dinner quite a lot. There are also many many many Catalan holidays. They'll walk around the city with 'giants' and make a lot of noise.

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

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

You can buy a 3-month public transportation card for 42 euro's that you can use in almost the entire region of catalonia (keep in mind that you get 120 euro from DUO as compensation for not using your 'studenten ov' in the Netherlands, so you make a plus). The infrastructure is amazing, metro's arrive every 3 minutes and the night busses are reliable!

6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	250euro (incl. return flight and luggage)
Visa - if applicable	x
Vaccinations - if applicable	x
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	8euro
Daytrips/sight-seeing	50euro, transport was free so just entrance for things
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	650euro in a shared apartment in the city centre with 4 other girls
Grocery costs per month	80
Public transport costs per month	14
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	100

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

The prices were lower. Going out for dinner in a group for tapas is rather cheap, Menu del Dia's give you the option to enjoy a three-course meal including water and wine for around 16euros! The groceries are way cheaper than in the Netherlands! Especially fruit and vegetables (and chickpeas and lentils)!

c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?

Through some Erasmus instagram accounts, you can book a trip to Morocco for very cheap! You arrange your own flight, and then for 250euros you get a hotel with breakfast for 5 days and dinner 2 days!

Flights/ferries to Ibiza and Mallorca are also cheap!

7. Free time

a. What are must-sees in the area?

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

Montserrat, Sitges, Cateldefells, Blanes, Madrid, Girona (Costa Brava if you have the time)

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

Menu del dia, eating Calcots (typical Catalan eaten in march), do a walking tour around your neighbourhood.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Not really....

b. Best memory?

Celebrating San Joan by going to a beach party first and then stay at the beach until the sun rised. All of Barcelona were on the beach, launching fireworks.

Or sunrise supping!

9. Contact details

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Name & email address (if yes)		