



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student information

Study programme WU	Bachelor Plantenwetenschappen
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	05/01/2024 until 25/04/2024
Exchange destination: University	UniLaSalle Beauvais
Faculty	
Country	France
City	Beauvais

2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to learn French, and experience a new things.

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

They speak French in France. I wanted to know this culture more because of my mothers French background.

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

It's small. I wanted to make close friends. That's easier when you have to see each other a lot. Due to there not being a lot of people.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Go by car, or take the train from Paris and then the bus from Beauvais hotel de ville. From Wageningen I think it's only 5 hours by car. That's easier.

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	Plant breeding programme The courses in this are set	24	Highschool like experience. Where you sit in class with the same people everyday. And	Academically: 2, I did learn something but I'm sure in Wageningen it	

			attendance is mandatory.	would be 10x more efficient. Socially: 4, I really enjoyed the high school feeling but with adult students.	
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

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

Yes, I had only one possibility. And that was plant breeding programme or not.

This programme was completely in English. I also had the possibility to do an extra course 2 weeks after the plant breeding programme. But I didn't do that.

Since two weeks of nothing is boring, when all your classmates are gone already.

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

Yes, I had the possibility to do plant breeding which is in my field of interest.

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

Yes, I made friends and experienced another life.

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

Honestly, bad structured programme. Half of the time I didn't know in which course I was sitting.

f. What is it like to study there?

I heard first semester of plant breeding is hard. But my second semester had an easy workload. Which was perfect. As a Wageningen student at plant breeding in Beauvais, you are not there to learn academically (2024).

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?

Well, Plant breeding is the only programme with a lot of internationals. The culture in this class is different than the rest of this university. In my class teachers were approachable. But my roommate, who is in another class, was once 30 seconds late for a presentation. He had to do the last part of the presentation. The teacher told him he would get half his grade, she would have given without him being late. There was arguing about it. He failed this class with an 8 out of 20. No one to go to change this. One teacher is often the head of the whole course in this university. They have the power over your grades. If the teacher is bad, and he or she doesn't like you. You have a problem.

But my roommate did his whole masters there. Teachers are more kind towards exchange students.

h. What does the university offer students additionally?

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

American movie style events. Sports laundry. I didn't attend a lot. But there is a lot of possibilities. I personally discovered my love for cooking in the international kitchen of BOIS J. But I regret not learning about bee keeping in the apiculture club. I discovered this club way too late.

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?

Room on campus in the international building "Bois J". Living on your own was 540 euro's per month in 2024. With a roommate it was around 330 euro's. Try living with a roommate! I enjoyed. I met someone who found her own room in Beauvais centre. But she did not like it at all. She had to take the bus early in the morning to go to school. It was hard for her to make friends.

b. What is the culture like?

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

In the Netherlands, if we feel emotions. We tend to express them smaller than they actually are. Or at least I did.

In France, expressing your emotions bigger than you feel them is considered as humour. A lot of people see that you theatrically make a big deal out. And laugh about it.

>Classmate tells a story when other classmate interrupts suddenly<

"AAH, mais REGARDE TES BASKETTES?? T'es fou!"

"arrete de pleurer, ... goes on with story without stopping her flow of thoughts in her story"

In the Netherlands you have to be good friends for conversations like this. In France, I feel like this would happen with just fellow students that aren't friends.

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

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

Bus to the city centre. It's only one euro per day. It's good except for Sundays. Then they only go once every 2 hours. But the bus takes 25 minutes. And it's a 7 minute walk from the international building of BOIS J. And then it's 20 more minutes of walking to get in the big hypermarché of Leclerc.

6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	160 per time you go there and back
Visa - if applicable	
Vaccinations - if applicable	
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	
Daytrips/sight-seeing	300 per semester
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	330 per month
Grocery costs per month	180
Public transport costs per month	60
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	30

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

Equal. Small things differ.

I noticed cheese and wine are less expensive. But wraps are more expensive.

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?

Castle of Pierrefond. If you have a friend with a car. I also enjoyed Chantilly castle but it I only saw the garden as it is super expensive to enter (like 25 euros or something). The Garden was 7 euros and okay. But not as magical as Pierrefond. Go on a beautiful day to pierrefond.

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

Walk in the forest next to the campus. Walk around the lake. And walk in the forest you can see on the other side of the valley, from the viewpoint from campus.

Only fun if you like walking in nature. As a city boy, I really enjoyed that.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

1) Academic level is really low. You can pass everything except Relational Database, without real effort. Be interested in learning social skills.

2) The long trip to the supermarket. Make it a thing you do with friends. It really takes more than 2.5 hours by public transport. Or make a friend with a car.

b. Best memory?

Getting close with my roommate. We really became good friends. Example:

I remember making a sharp but good comment to another friend. The friend didn't hear it so he asked "what?". I replied with "nothing". My roommate knew I would feel insecure making those kind of comments. So he said "No, say again". These small helping comments made by a good friend made me less shy and really secure about myself.

9. Contact details

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	Yes!	
Name & email address (if yes)	Ivo van Bracht ivovanbracht@icloud.com	