



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student information

Study programme WU	Bachelors of Environmental Sciences
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	01/02/2024 until 31/07/2024
Exchange destination: University	University of Bologna
Faculty	DISTAL (Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences)
Country	Italy
City	Bologna

2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to experience living in another city as a student.

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

Because I wanted to learn the Italian language to be a fluent speaker.

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

Because it is a very good university for agriculture, and it is recommended for its social atmosphere by previous exchange students or people that have studied there.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

No.

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	SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT	6	With knowledge regarding different irrigation systems, we made a project evaluating when to irrigate and comparing them.	5	Lovely teacher and you get to put into practice GIS suited for beginners

2	Climate Variability	6	A combination of Thermodynamics, Fluid Dynamics, Geophysics and Multivariate Mathematics for understanding how the atmosphere and ocean affect one another causing climate.	5	It is an intense course, but doable if you have a very good mathematics foundation of matrixes, and thermodynamics.
3	VOLCANIC HAZARDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT	6	Learning about how volcanoes are formed and how they impact the environment.	5	Passionate teacher, and a spectacular field trip towards the end of the course to the Eolian Islands to see active volcanoes. You will apply your understanding of geology and volcanoes in this field trip.
4	INNOVATIVE AND SMART TECHNOLOGIES FOR VEGETABLE CULTIVATION (I.C.)	6	Learning about greenhouses and vertical ones to then apply this knowledge to the Urban Farm Project 2024.	5	Lovely teachers, and an amazing hands on experience to a trip to Sweeden for the Urban Farm Project where you get to meet founders of farms from different techniques.
5	PHYSICAL OCEANOGRAPHY	6	Learning about ocean dynamics around the world, filled with multivariate mathematics, thermodynamics, and fluid dynamics.	5	Best teacher that I had in my exchange, and certainly one that I would remember for a very long time. It is an amazing course and I would highly recommend to people who want to apply physics and their love to their ocean. You have to be very dedicated to learn, but is doable for people that have no experience in oceanography. But you certainly need to know about physics!
6	Agricultural Policy and Evaluation	3	Learning about Life Cycle Assessment and other policies throughout the agriculture	5	Then you have to make an essay about what you learned and apply it to your topic of interest.

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

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

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

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

f. What is it like to study there?

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

It is taught with loads of lectures and is very detailed compared to WUR. The majority of examinations at master level are oral, which is a good way to prove to the teacher that you have truly learned in this course. Work load depends on the course.

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 very warm and welcoming people who are very eager about international and their views of their topic in their own nation. In my experience the lecturers suit their lectures/projects depending on the background of the student, so also the lecturers learn something about them and their country. They are very engaging with students compared to WUR.

Engagement with locals is a bit hard if you don't speak Italian, but even a little Italian can really help you make amazing friends as they are very nice welcoming people.

h. What does the university offer students additionally?

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

Loads of study places all throughout the city, with cafes attached to them or very near them at an affordable price.

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 found housing through ESN room swap, so I highly recommend that, and the rent prices are ok 300-500 euros, just like the WUR.

b. What is the culture like?

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

It is very similar to Argentinian culture, and I would say quiet polar opposite than the Netherlands. They are very warming and welcoming, they truly want to get to know you, they love to get to know different cultures (especially now that there is a big immigration of Iranians), they are easy to make friends with (even with internationals with language barriers) they are laid back and spontaneous.

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

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

Public Transport is very accessible because you have a very big annual discount. They have a very good train service (arrived on time), very comfortable trains with discounts for the youth/students. For example with night trains, going from Bologna to Sicily (10 hour train) two ways, it costs 80 euros. Also, train rides can cost 2 euros for like a 10 minute train. And to the airport from Bologna you pay 20-25 euros and arrive there in 20 minutes.

6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	Approx 100 euros
Visa - if applicable	
Vaccinations - if applicable	
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	
Daytrips/sight-seeing	to big cities like Milan and Rome you can get like a 3 euro ticket one way.
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	375 without extra fees
Grocery costs per month	150
Public transport costs per month	Bike (free, borrowed it)
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	If you want a fulfilling pasta plate 6 euros. Sorry, I didn't go out much.

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

c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?

Appetitivo is very accessible, and it is part of every Italian lifestyle.

7. Free time

a. What are must-sees in the area?

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

You can go anytime, just not from June until August, it is way too hot to be in the cities. Should definitely check out the mountains in the North, la via degli dei, Sicily.

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

Bike rides along beautiful gardens.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Speaking Italian, I just started to talk even though I made mistakes and talked to my local friends in Italian.

b. Best memory?

Doing a Ferrata with my friends.

9. Contact details

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