



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student information

<b>Study programme WU</b>	Master Climate Studies
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	11-01-2024 until 10-05-2024
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	University College Cork
<b>Faculty</b>	-
<b>Country</b>	Ireland
<b>City</b>	Cork

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

Due to covid I was unable to go on a Erasmus exchange during my bachelor, but because I still wanted to do this I decided to go in my masters. My main reason was to experience living abroad for a couple of months.

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

I never thought about choosing Ireland for my exchange, but when I was researching all possible universities in Europe to go to I discovered Ireland and was immediately enthusiastic. I chose Ireland because it is a country I would normally not visit and because I did not know a lot about the country yet.

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

I chose Cork because I wanted to experience living in a bigger city than Wageningen. I could not choose Dublin with my study programme and Cork is Ireland's second biggest city.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I prefer travelling sustainably, but Ireland is difficult to reach without taking a plane. I looked up different possibilities by train and boat, but because these travels took very long and are quite expensive I decided to fly there. My flight was to Dublin and it was very easy to reach Cork with a bus from 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	Introduction to Geoinformatics	5	Bachelor course, good introduction course to GIS and remote sensing. Lectures and individual practicals	4	Interesting course to learn the basics of geoinformatics. Course load was also good.
2	Business, Innovation and Globalisation in China	10	Master course, broad course about different aspects to China's business, innovation and Globalisation. Lectures, essay and presentation	4	Fun and interesting course, course load was not too high. Not very much in depth on the subjects but the course touches a lot of current topics regarding China.
3	Conflict, Memory and Nation Building in the Francophone World	10	Master course, weekly lecture and essay assignment. About former French colonies and the relationship between France and those countries.	4	Very interesting course about colonization and its ongoing impact. Different regions were studied.
4					
5					
6					

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

Yes, all courses were in English.

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

Yes, UCC offers a lot of different courses in different faculties.

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

Yes, level of the courses and especially the course load was less than in Wageningen, but I was satisfied with this.

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

Yes, I liked the diversity in my courses and that I was able to learn something different in my field of study (introduction to geoinformatics) but also the more random courses I followed not in my field of study.

**f. What is it like to study there?**

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

Academic level is easier than WUR and workload was less, also way less contact hours. Lesson material was provided in my case and there is a nice online platform with all the information you need. Examination takes place at the end of the semester.

**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?*

My lecturers were very approachable and friendly. Felt like they are on the same level as the students and they were all very helpful. This was more than at WUR, but my courses were relatively small scaled.

**h. What does the university offer students additionally?**

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

The main thing UCC offers students is free access to the sport centre and pool, which was amazing! Also possibility to join various clubs and sports, even as an exchange student. UCC does help with finding housing, but I did not use this option.

## 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?*

UCC helps you with finding a room to some extent. Furthermore there are quite a few student residences in the city you can stay in. You can also choose to stay with a host family. I stayed in a house through Eazycity with other people that needed a short stay. Finding a room is quite difficult but possible. Overall, the rent is extremely high everywhere in Ireland.

**b. What is the culture like?**

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

The culture is comparable to the Netherlands in a sense that it is quite modern and well developed but of course there are also a lot of differences.

**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 get a young adult or student TFI card for the busses, which is the same as a OV chipcard in the Netherlands. It is less expensive to travel by public transport in Ireland. In the city the public transport infrastructure is well organized but this is less so for the rest of Ireland. There are main routes to the big cities, but without a car it is almost impossible to explore the nature side of Ireland. Cork is not that big so I walked to the university, but you could also go by bus or rent a bike.

## 6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	100
Visa - if applicable	-
Vaccinations - if applicable	-
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	-
Daytrips/sight-seeing	400
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	940 per month (private single room in a house in the centre)
Grocery costs per month	150
Public transport costs per month	30
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	50

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

The prices were very equal to the Netherlands (grocery, restaurants, pubs, day trips). Public transport was a bit cheaper and housing was way more expensive.

### c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?

Just note that the rent for housing is extremely high, which I did not know before selecting my top 3 destinations.

## 7. Free time

### a. What are must-sees in the area?

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

Must-do is rent a car and travel around with that. Must sees are Ring of Kerry, Cliffs of Moher, Dublin and lots more. There is a lot to visit nearby Cork.

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

Ballycotton cliff walk (near Cork).

## 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Sometimes I found it difficult to travel to places outside of Cork because of the public transport.

### b. Best memory?

Experiencing living abroad in a country I had never visited before.

## 9. Contact details

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