



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student information

<b>Study programme WU</b>	BBC and Free Bachelor Program
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	03/01/2024 until 06/05/2024
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	University of Galway
<b>Faculty</b>	SCHOOL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND SOCIOLOGY
<b>Country</b>	Ireland
<b>City</b>	Galway

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

When I started studying I could not wait for the moment to finally study abroad. I chose to go on a study exchange for several reasons.

Firstly, I was eager to immerse myself in a new culture and broaden my global perspective. Experiencing different cultures firsthand enhances personal growth and helps in developing a more nuanced understanding of the world. This cultural immersion is invaluable in fostering open-mindedness and adaptability, traits that are increasingly important in our interconnected world.

Secondly, the academic opportunities offered by the host institution were a significant factor. This study exchange provided access to different teaching styles, unique courses, and specialized resources that might not be available for me at my home university. This exposure enriches my academic experience and deepens my knowledge in my field of study.

Thirdly, the exchange program is an excellent opportunity to build an international network. Establishing connections with students, professors, and professionals from around the world opens doors to future collaborations and career opportunities. These relationships can be incredibly beneficial in a global job market and next to that some wonderful friendships.

Lastly, I sought personal development and independence. Living in a different country requires navigating unfamiliar environments, overcoming language barriers, and managing daily life away from familiar support systems. These challenges enhance self-reliance, problem-solving skills, and confidence.

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

I always wanted to visit Ireland to explore its nature and way of living. Next to that, I really wanted to do my Erasmus at a place where I did not know 100 other WUR students. So this was the perfect opportunity to explore the country and the university

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

The courses which were offered by the University of Galway were for me the perfect ones to deepen my knowledge about the behaviour of people. The psychology courses were quite advanced which really challenged me to research this subject. The sociology courses which were offered showed me a side of sociology which the WUR does not teach about. This combined was for me the right university to study at.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I strongly advise future student to fly to Dublin. From Dublin there is a Bus straight to Galway, the Galway Coach Station is in the middle of the city so the perfect spot to hop off. The company who arranges this is called Citylink.

## 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 Sociology	5	The course covers the main areas of sociological research relating to contemporary issues.	4	
2	Classical Social Thought	5	This course builds on the course Introduction to Sociology. This course delves into the most important founders and their works of sociology such as; Karl Marx, Émile Durkheim and Max Weber. It provides knowledge about the classical ideas and developments of sociology and social thinking.	3.5	
3	Contemporary Social Thought	5	This is an in-depth subject that is taught in the master's program. This subject is mainly sociology but also partly about political science	4	
4	Cognitive Psychology	5	It focuses on human memory and the interaction between cognition and emotion. Topics that were often mentioned here were the role of emotions and memory	5	
5	Social Psychology	5	This course is about the behavior of people viewed from a psychology perspective. The	4	

			irish government provided a case which we worked on		
6	Irish for beginners	5 (not acknowledged by wur)	Is about the Irish language, but places a strong emphasis on its history and culture. This included a weekend away in a small irish village.	5	

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

**c. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest (Yes, No - Explain):** Yes, the only struggle was with making a fitting time table

**d. I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed (Yes, No - Explain):** Yes, it was a bit harder than I was used to in Wageningen but this was better in my opinion.

**e. I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed (Yes, No - Explain):** Yes, I would not have done it another way. The courses really gave me a lot of inside which I can use in my further study within the WUR

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

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

There are not a lot of lecture hours, most of the study is done by yourself. Personally I did not have any groupwork and so did my friends. In a semester there are mid term exams which contained an exam for each course. The examination consisted of a lot of essays which is personally never had to write during my time in Wageningen so that was quite a struggle. The professors were really friendly and helped the Erasmus students a lot. They university uses the program CANVAS ( it's a bit like Brightspace) and it worked really well.

**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?*

Lectures were so so so friendly. They really showed interest in you and helped you in all the ways they could. They really wanted to help you as a student to gain as much knowledge as possible and pass the exam. The teachers at WUR are a bit more distant. In Ireland they really want the students to succeed and in Wageningen they want more occasional support and care less about the student's chances of success.

The local students were nice but the engagement was a bit difficult sometimes due to the low amount of lecture hours. You would see a person from the course maybe twice a week for 2 hours, which is not enough to really get to know them.

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

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

The food was really good and fresh. They even had a big pub on the university campus. The sport facilities were huge and really open to Erasmus students.

## 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?*

You need to be really early to sign up for rooms on campus. The rents on campus are really high so I advise to look for a host family.

### b. What is the culture like?

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

The Irish people are way nicer than the Dutch. They are really welcoming and love to have a chat with everyone! There are also way politer, in pubs or restaurants it is normal to say thank you a lot of times. You feel so welcome in Ireland it's really the best. The cuisine is not that different, just a lot of fish and chips options.

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

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

The buses are cheap but never on time. Get the app Freenow to use taxis, that's the best. Bicycles are not a lot but the cycling is really dangerous because there are almost no cycling roads. Personally I walked a lot which was great.

## 6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	230 euro for plane tickets and 15 euro for the bus
Visa - if applicable	Not applicable
Vaccinations - if applicable	Not applicable
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	Not applicable
Daytrips/sight-seeing	40/50 euro including transport and boats
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	Room in host family house: 640 eu per month
Grocery costs per month	70 eu
Public transport costs per month	Not applicable but a bus ticket would be 2 euro
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	40/50

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

Groceries and stuff were higher than in the Netherlands.

Bus transport and trips were a bit lower.

Housing was a lot higher as well.

### c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?

Not applicable

## 7. Free time

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

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

Cliffs of moher, connemare, aran islands, a lot of hiking routes.

Planning can be a week before.

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

Silver strand and deep into Connemara.

## 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

For me the essay writing was a big challenge but after asking all my professors I finally found someone who was willing to help me.

### b. Best memory?

Sint Patrick's day. This was such a precious moment to spend with my best friends form there. It was truly a dream and I can not put in words how wonderful the day was.

## 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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