



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student information

<b>Study programme WU</b>	BPW
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	12/2/2024 until 21/6/2024
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	Lincoln University
<b>Faculty</b>	NA
<b>Country</b>	New Zealand
<b>City</b>	Lincoln (Christchurch)

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to put myself out of my comfort zone and experience student life in a different country. I also was interested in seeing New Zealand, and having the chance to study there for a semester provided a unique opportunity that I did not see happening again.

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

I had been interested in New Zealand for a while due to its natural beauty and unique biology (specifically tree ferns) and I met 2 girls from Lincoln who came to do their exchange in Wageningen, and I really hit it off with them and they convinced me to come.

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

Mainly due to the people that I had met through the Erasmus exchange, but also because the classes that they offered really interested me. They had a lot of specific courses in agricultural subjects such as agroforestry that are not given everywhere.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Book your flights early and accommodation sent someone to the airport to pick me up. The university is not in Christchurch itself, it is about 20 min away.

## 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	Biological diversity	7.5	Learned about the biodiversity of new zealand	3.5	The knowledge I learned was interesting, but it was not particularly rigorous, and the lecture were not really necessary to attend
2	Applied Agroforestry	7.5	All aspects of agroforestry production forests, silvopastural, and silvoarable	4.5	Fun field trips, engaging professor and interesting content!
3	Water Resource management	7.5	Water policy in New Zealand, specifically the canterbury region	2	Class was mostly online, the professor was not engaging at all (read word for word off of a paper for the lectures) and poorly communicated.
4					
5					
6					

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

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

d. I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed (Yes, No - Explain): some of the way the courses were taught was quite lackluster (low expectations of the students and sup-par material

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

f. What is it like to study there?

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

The form of study was quite loose, not much was mandatory or necessary to pass the class. Most of the grades from assignments were not posted until the very end of the semester. The level of the material and assignments was considerably lower than I am used to at the WUR.

**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 professors were quite open and welcoming, but the students were not very welcoming to the exchange students, they mainly stayed in their own social circles. The exchange students spent a lot of time amongst themselves.

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

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

The gym is really nice, the accommodation was okay, but I think they were changing the options. The tramping club has a gear rental which is handy for going on trips.

## 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?*

Flats in accommodation – around 4000 NZD for the semester (5 months)

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

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

The kiwis are very polite, but it is difficult to get to know them. Most of the people are farmers, so the cities don't have a strong culture. The pies are very good and there is quite a bit of good Asian food.

**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 metro card for 8 nzd at the metro station and then each bus ride is 1 dollar for 2 hours. There is a bus that goes from the university to the city in 45 min. There is hardly any public transportation outside of the cities. To get between places in the country, there are some inter city busses, but mostly you need a car. There is quite a large community of backpackers that buy and sell cars and campervans. Having your own car makes a very big difference

## 6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	2300 euro
Visa - if applicable	200 euro
Vaccinations - if applicable	
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	405 NZD
Daytrips/sight-seeing	
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	400 euro
Grocery costs per month	300 euro
Public transport costs per month	
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	

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

A little bit higher with groceries, gas is less expensive, but you drive longer distances. In general, it is more expensive.

**c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?**

Wise credit card or revolut work really well.

## 7. Free time

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

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

Abel Tasman park, the west coast, Kaikoura, Arthurs pass, Akaroa, Victoria Forest park, karuhngi National park. Get the campermate app and it has a lot of information on campsites, activities and places to see.

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

Hinewai forest in akaroa, Victoria forest park, Karamea, caves- cliffden, cave stream, fenian caves, rawahiti.

## 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

There was not much to do in Lincoln itself, and with not very challenging courses I found myself bored a lot throughout the week. Building a strong social network and making plans is very important.

**b. Best memory?**

Trecking through Abel tasman and sleeping in the huts. Doing tidal crossings, swimming at the beaches and looking for wildlife.

## 9. Contact details

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