



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student information

<b>Study programme WU</b>	BIL
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	12/02/2024 until 21/06/2024
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	Lincoln University
<b>Faculty</b>	
<b>Country</b>	New Zealand
<b>City</b>	Lincoln

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I decided to go on an exchange because I had one semester left to do free choice courses and I wanted a new challenge to develop myself personally, so studying abroad for half a year seemed like the perfect option.

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

I chose for New Zealand because I wanted to go to an English speaking country and I heard many great stories about the natural sceneries and culture in New Zealand. It has many varied landscapes within a relatively small distance because of the unique location in the world and the plate tectonics. Its nature and geography really interest me and perfectly fit my study programme, so studying in this country would allow me to see the natural processes I have learned about in real life. Besides that, the size of the country gives the opportunity to easily travel around while studying.

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

Lincoln University is like Wageningen University but in New Zealand. It's a very good land-based university that has a lot of field trips and practical learning. Going outside and experiencing things you have learned during lectures sounded like the perfect way to learn for me. Besides that, its location is pretty central which allows you to travel around the south island during weekends.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

The only way to reach New Zealand is by plane because it's on the other side of the world. Reaching the university was really easy because they picked me up from the airport and dropped me off at my flat at the campus.

## 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	ECOL 202	7,5	Learning about the biological diversity in New Zealand by lectures, labs and field trips.	4	Very interesting course with a 3-day field trip from the east coast to west coast to apply your learned knowledge! I liked the varied way of teaching and examination. Sometimes the lectures were a bit chaotic but besides that definitely a course to consider following!
2	FORS 270	7,5	Learning all aspects from agroforestry, from production forestry to ecological conservation.	4	Well-taught and well-structured course that applies information from the lectures to weekly field trips. This course definitely gave a look in how different types of farming work in New Zealand and it made me appreciate agroforestry more which I hadn't initially expected.
3	RECN 341	7,5	Learning about recreation and tourism in protected natural areas, the balance between giving the people what they want while also conserving the environment.	5	Very interesting course with a great teacher! Good way of examining with a small exam, papers and discussions. Made it very varied and attractive. Also a 1-day excursion to national parks.
4					
5					
6					

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?*

Studying at Lincoln University is definitely different than in Wageningen. The lectures are shorter and there are more labs/practical and field trips. So instead of a lot of theory, the theory is also applied in real life which made it very interesting. For me it made the studying easier and I feel like the workload is a bit less than in Wageningen. Examination is also different because the courses are divided in multiple exams/papers/practicals and the final exams are all at the end of the semester. So for every assignment you receive a certain percentage and that is part of your final grade, instead of just 1 or 2 exams for a course in Wageningen. The semester consists of 6 weeks for the first half, than a 3 week mid semester break, and then another 6 weeks for the second half, finished by 1 study week and 2 exam weeks.

**g. What is the culture of the university?**

It's a pretty small university, smaller than WUR. So lecturers are very approachable and there are not a lot of people in a class which feels way more personal. There is one big student association which everyone is a member of and organizes activities for everyone on campus. You can also join clubs to interact with other students.

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

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

I lived in a self catered flat which I really liked because all the internationals lived in the flats together and created a fun community. Cooking is easy, the supermarket is closeby, there is a laundry machine and dryer in the flat and the flat gets cleaned every 2 weeks. The sports facilities are great! Amazing gym, climbing hall and sports classes.

## 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?*

In my opinion it's best to live on campus in a flat. Most internationals and older-year local students live there and it's a great community. In the halls it's mostly freshmen and they don't tend to mix with internationals. You can also try to find a room in town but that's harder and further away from campus.

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

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

I feel like the culture is pretty similar to Wageningen except that the locals are pretty closed and quiet. They don't talk a lot to internationals. All the internationals are very fun though! And going to rugby games together is definitely a must 😊

**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 bus card is very cheap, only 1 nzd per bus ride and you can easily get a bus card at the bus interchange in Christchurch. The bus takes about 45 minutes from Christchurch to Lincoln. If you want to go clubbing in the weekends you need to Uber back which is not too expensive if you share it with people. The public transport to other places is pretty

hard so I would recommend buying a car or van. That's what a friend and I did together and it allowed us to go on a lot of adventures!

## 6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	1400 euro
Visa - if applicable	430 nzd
Vaccinations - if applicable	-
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	-
Daytrips/sight-seeing	Differs
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	500 euro/month
Grocery costs per month	Similar to NL
Public transport costs per month	30 nzd for whole semester
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	Similar to NL

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

Similar to NL but gets higher if you want to travel around or do day trips

### 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?*

A lot to do in the weekends, go to mount cook, Kaikoura, akaroa, hanmer springs, dunedin. A lot of cool hikes and tracks nearby. If you have a bit more time also go to abel tasman, milford sound and queenstown!

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

Go to the rugby games of the crusaders! Very cheap and very fun in the student section!

## 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

In the beginning it was quite a challenge to figure out how to travel around, but when we bought the van everything was way easier, so definitely recommend that and is not too expensive.

### b. Best memory?

Making friends from all around the world and having a lot of cool experiences with them!

## 9. Contact details

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Name &amp; email address (if yes)</b>	Kyke van der Brugge – kyke.brugge@gmail.com	