



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student information

Study programme WU	BSc Environmental Sciences
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	19/02/2024 until 19/07/2024
Exchange destination: University	Padova University
Faculty	Economics and political sciences
Country	Italy
City	Padova

2. Motivation for exchange

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

To experience travelling as a young person and broaden my horizons.

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

It is renowned for its culture, cuisine, and weather.

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

Courses matched the topics I was interested in and it is a prestigious institution.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Flixbus from the Netherlands is refunded my Erasmus. Otherwise, there are very cheap flights from e.g. Brussels Charleroi airport.

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	European and International Law	9	Content was interesting but the teacher is extremely disorganised.	2	Examination was very easy and questions are briefed before exam.
2	Economics of climate change and the low carbon transition	9	Very small group, very interactive and interesting	4	

			class! The teacher is very enthusiastic		
3	Industrial organization and competition	6	The teacher is very organised. It starts from the basics of mathematics so might be a bit basic in the beginning.	4	Same thing here, the examination was considered very easy by most students.
4	Population challenges for developing societies	6	Fascinating content! Demography is really well explained and I attended everything because I was very interested.	4	
5					
6					

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

c. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest (Yes, No - Explain): Yes, there are many classes in economics, law and social sciences in my faculty.

d. I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed (Yes, No - Explain): It was way easier than in WUR, but I found them interactive and interesting nonetheless.

e. I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed (Yes, No - Explain): I selected a variety of classes in different domains which were new to me.

f. What is it like to study there?

Expectations are much lower than in WUR. You can have a nice life/study balance. I took master's classes, so students were usually motivated to attend

g. What is the culture of the university?

My classes were given in small groups which is really nice. There are also really beautiful historical lecture rooms

h. What does the university offer students additionally?

There are canteens, nice libraries, and so on but most people decide to study or eat at other places.

5. Housing-traveling-living

a. What are the possibilities for housing?

It is tricky to get a room from the uni. I opted for a private renter found through a peer who went to Padova on exchange. It is a popular exchange destination so word of mouth is useful.

b. What is the culture like?

Italians enjoy a relaxed lifestyle, to have a drink, eat out, and shops are often closed for siesta break. Shops are not open very late.

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

Getting a bike is ideal. Public transport is very affordable but not reliable especially after 9pm it is barely existent.

6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	0 (green travel with Erasmus). Flights can cost less than 30 with low cost airlines
Visa - if applicable	/
Vaccinations - if applicable	/
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	/
Daytrips/sight-seeing	A round trip to venice with the train is 15 euros. A lot of cultural activities are free for padova students.
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	380 (shared flat)
Grocery costs per month	200
Public transport costs per month	0 (bike lent)
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	100

b. The price levels were in general [higher; lower; equal] in comparison to in the Netherlands: Groceries: slightly lower. Eating out: much lower. Vegetarian alternatives: more expensive.

c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?

Bike theft is very common so do not buy an expensive bike!

7. Free time

a. What are must-sees in the area?

All Padova students frequently go to Venice, I went one weekend per month or more. Verona is also worth a visit.

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

PadovaLand is an aquatic park nearby which is very enjoyable. The center of Padova itself is very beautiful!

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

I had a lot of medical issues, and there is a big language barrier at the hospital. My experiences at the emergency room were very complicated.

b. Best memory?

The friends you make during ESN events, please do not skip intro days!

9. Contact details

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