

# WUR Goes Abroad

## **1. Student information**

Study programme WU	Bsc International Development Studies		
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	02/02/2024 until 19/06/2024		
Exchange destination: University	Universita' Degli Studi Di Perugia		
Faculty	Law and Political sciences		
Country	Italy		
City	Perugia		

#### 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I heard amazing stories about people's exchange period experiences. I wanted to experience it myself, exchange cultures and ideas with different students outside of my own bubble in Wageningen.

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

I have always loved the Italian culture with their amazing kitchen and their charismatic way of communication with each other. Besides, I knew a friend who studies here and via him I could easily get housing.

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

It was in the city and this friend of mine had amazing stories. The city Perugia is not that big and that's what suits me.

#### 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Be realistic towards yourself. I cannot speak Spanish, so I didn't choose a country in South America because it was, so to say, outside my league.

## 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	Law and International cooperation projects	6	We learned how it works with TORs within the European Union and looked	5	

2	Peace Studies	6	at a lot of Logframes and Workplans that suited the specified TOR. We got a lot of information about the EU and development aid. We learned a lot about	2	
2	reace studies	0	conflicts currently going on in the world and their real causes (a lot of discussion about the Israel/ Palestina conflict). We also looked at historical conflicts and their peace.	2	
3	Private law of European integration	6	We looked at law and their definitions. This course was within the law department and was really focus on the technical aspects of law. It incorporated a bit of history (Roman law) and a comparison with Chinese private law.	3	
4	Sustainable development, global trade and social rights	6	This course focused a lot on globalization and treaties within time within the E and its effect on law.	4	
5					
6					

#### b. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses that were <u>taught in</u> <u>English</u> (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. But the level was quite easy for me while the courses were supposed to be master level.

a. 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?* It is amazing. There are not a lot of contact hours, the level and the workload is quite easy.

#### 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?

They are very welcoming towards exchange students, they have exchange offices in almost every department and it's very easy to contact professors.

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

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

There is a nice area where you can get coffee and something to eat (or get together with friends). However, there are no sport facilities provided by the university.

## 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? I got my room via a friend of mine, so I was very lucky. Housing in Perugia is quite difficult if I have to believe the other students and my landlord.

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

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

I love the culture. There is not a lot of pressure on the people, my mental health improved a lot in Perugia. The workload in the Netherlands is horrible compared to there. I so dislike the stressing/ planning culture here. There everyone is more relaxed, and you can make plans with people within a week. This is not possible in the Netherlands where everyone's agenda is full for the upcoming 2 years.

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

*E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?* Public transport was fine. The Lidl with the cheap groceries was situated outside of the centre (which lies on the top of the mountain). So I was very happy with the busses that went towards there. One negative point was that the busses were always late, just like the trains. But it wasn't that big of a deal. My university was 5 min by walk so that was amazing.

### **6. Expenses**

Category	Expenses	
Travelling there	50 euros with the Flixbus and around 80	
	euros by plane	
Visa - if applicable	Not applicable	
Vaccinations - if applicable	Not applicable	
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	Not applicable	
Daytrips/sight-seeing	60,- for a bus pass for a year around Umbria	
	+ 100,- for daytrips by train	
Housing costs per month & type of	er month & type of 350 incl. water and electricity costs	
housing/accommodation		
Grocery costs per month	120,-	

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

Public transport costs per month	Depends highly. We could use the car a lot
	from my neighbour. +/- 20
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per	30,-
month	

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

lower

#### 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?

If you like hiking you can go with bus K to monte Tezio. Other destinations that are easy to access:

- Assisi (especially if you have a car)
- Lago di Trasimeno (cities: Castiglione del Lago or Passignano sul Trasimeno)
- Orvieto
- Florence
- Rome
- Ancona

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

### 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

At some point I didn't know what to do. I was alone with my thoughts for once. It scared me in the beginning but then my Spanish roommate and I had a discussion about this. He told me that it wasn't bad at all and that doing nothing should be accepted and embraced by society since it is good for our mental health.

Society wants us to always work and not working, not doing anything, is often seen as something bad and people don't know what to say if someone says that he didn't do anything on a day.

Well, I learned to do nothing some days and I started to embrace it. I finally found rest again.

#### b. Best memory?

Lots, and this was all possible because of my amazing roommates who I love. I learned a lot from them, and I am super grateful for that.

## 9. Contact details

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes 🖂	no 🗆
Name & email address (if yes)	Name: Hilsje Rijkhoff Email: Hilsje.rijkhoff@wur.nl / hilsje25@gmail.com	