



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student information

Study programme WU	Bsc Biotechnology
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	09/01/2024 until 10/05/2024
Exchange destination: University	PURPAN SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
Faculty	Na.
Country	France
City	Toulouse

2. Motivation for exchange

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

I chose to go on a study exchange to broaden my academic and cultural horizons, gain international experience, and enhance my understanding of global practices in food and agricultural engineering.

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

I chose France because it is renowned for its expertise in agriculture and viticulture, offering a unique opportunity to learn about wine production and food engineering from leading experts in the field.

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

I chose the engineering school in Toulouse because of its strong focus on food and agricultural engineering, specifically its comprehensive programs and research opportunities in viticulture and enology, which align perfectly with my academic and career goals.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

If you book in advance the train is a rather nice way to travel except for the transfer in Paris. You take the Thalys to Paris Nord and then from Paris Montparnasse the TGV (Ouigo is cheap) to Toulouse Matabiau. It took me 9 hours.

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	Winemaking	3	Everything about winemaking from growing the grapes to the fermentation to the tasting of the product.	4.5	A micro vinification practical is conducted where you make and taste your own wine. It also includes a visit to a vineyard.
2	French language and culture	3	French language and culture	3.5	Obligatory language course adapted to level of student
3	International Wine Business & Marketing	6	Learning about the marketing and whereabouts of having a luxury wine brands by an expert	4	Really engaging course
4	Digital Marketing	2	Basics of digital marketing of food products	3	
5	Food Innovation	6	Holistic practical course of the production and marketing of a innovative food product	5	Involves a real company who has a problem
6	Introduction to Food Science	2	About ingredient functionality	2	Should prepare for food innovation. Not too deep.
7	Process in Food Technology	3	Practical work in producing cheese, apple juice, beer, etc... also teaches technical details	5	Really fun
8	Microbiological Quality of Food	2	Absolute basics of microbiology.	3	Cool hands on practical work
9	Sensory Analysis	1	Small course about sensory analysis and related statistical methods	3	
10	Quality Process	2	HACCP production of food	4	Taught by industry expert and involves visit to butcher

b. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses that were taught in English.

Yes. The school offers fixed course packages. Two per semester.

c. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest.

Yes. Both packages provide a wide range of topics.

d. I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed.

No, though high quality the courses could be more difficult in my opinion.

e. I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed.

Yes. I feel I learned a lot about the working of marketing and the food industry.

f. What is it like to study there?

Long obligatory school days every day of the workweek. However when you are free there is no work left to be done. And you can enjoy free time.

g. What is the culture of the university?

Small school with approachable lecturers. Compared to WU the school is quite small and personal. However it does feel more specifically hierarchical at PURPAN compared to WU.

h. What does the university offer students additionally?

The school offers some parties and social gatherings and helps you find accommodation. Apart from that the students themselves provide the lunch and extra curricular activities. You do have access to CROUS the student food (only 3.30 per meal).

5. Housing-traveling-living

a. What are the possibilities for housing?

They help you find a room in social student renting facility or help you sublet from their students.

b. What is the culture like?

Bigger city so there are more activities to be done. Nice restaurants for a relatively cheap price.

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

Pastel card gives good and cheap access to local public transport. With FAIRTIQ you can use all the regional trains for a cheap price. Almost never any problems unless there is a strike. Which happened two times.

6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses in Euros +-
Travelling there	100
Visa - if applicable	na
Vaccinations - if applicable	na
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	50
Daytrips/sight-seeing	400
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	300
Grocery costs per month	280
Public transport costs per month	15
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	60

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

Equal

c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?

Supermarket prices a bit different but end up the same. Fruit and vegetables more expensive, cheese and meat cheaper.

7. Free time

a. What are must-sees in the area?

In Toulouse: Daurade and Halles de la Machine

Carcassonne, San Sebastian, Biarritz, Narbonne, Pyrenees (Luchon) Bordeaux, Barcelona

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

French Tacos, Chez TonTon Student Bar with Pastis night on Monday.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Not really, it was a smooth experience.

b. Best memory?

Hiking to Spain through Pyrenees and sitting next to the Garonne in endless sunny evenings.

9. Contact details

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
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