



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student information

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|---|-----------------------------|
| Study programme WU | |
| Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy) | 10/01/2024 until 14/06/2024 |
| Exchange destination: University | Purpan ecole d'ingineurs |
| Faculty | Purpan ecole d'ingineurs |
| Country | France |
| City | Toulouse |

2. Motivation for exchange

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

Because I really wanted to live in an other country than the Netherlands and experience the life studying abroad. I also wanted to get to know new people from all over the world.

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

To be honest, it was the most south place in Europe where I could have courses that are in line with my studies.

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

The course about wine and there was no other option.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I went there by plane and I had the luck my parents went with me so they could help with the start and arranging my living situation and they could help with all my stuff because I needed more than the suitcase I could bring if I was alone. But a friend from Germany went with car (it was a long drive) and she could take as much as she wanted and it was really nice to have a car here for some trips. But I think any transportation is fine.

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 | Wine making | 3 | Learning how to make and taste wine. We had some lectures, made our own wine and did (a lot of) wine tastings | 4 | It was a lot of new stuff and compared to the others courses a lot of work |
| 2 | Wine business | 6 | Getting more inside in the wine business but also cava and champagne. The teacher was the best teacher ever and I really enjoyed it and learned a lot | 5 | We gave in total around 15 presentations I think, but most were short and we could always prepare in class and it did not feel like a difficult thing because the atmosphere was more about learning and giving ideas and not about performing well. |
| 3 | Food innovation | 6 | We made our own product from grasspeas, did a sensory analysis and a complete marketing research and marketing idea. We did literary everything when you make and launch a new product and it was really nice | 4 | The teachers were sometimes a bit confusing and they give you 1 hour to think of one sentence with your whole group. Not super efficient but it was fun with my classmates and the course was still nice to follow |
| 4 | Food process | 3 | Here I made cheese and apple juice, it was really fun and nice to really do the process and not just learn about it in lectures | 4 | I do like the practical part but I realised I am not really a practical person, I also want to have the background etc in lectures |
| 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. I had 2 choices but that was enough.

d. I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed (Yes, No - Explain):

Yes. For me it was pretty easy to follow, but I still liked it and learned new stuff. And it was really nice that I did not have to study that much outside of school hours.

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?

Really nice! The teachers are really nice, sometimes their English is not that good but they make it work. We had school almost everyday, from 9-12:30 in the morning and 14-16:30 in the afternoon (most of the time) but luckily we did not have full days every day. Most courses had presentations as examination, I had to write a few reports as well but only 1 was alone and only 2 written exams

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 teachers were really open to talk to you and learn about our knowledge and culture etc. the students were also really nice but unfortunately we did not have any lessons with French students. The other incomings were super nice and was really fun with them in class.

h. What does the university offer students additionally?

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

There was no cafeteria but almost everyday there was club sandwich, were students make different kinds of grilled cheese for super cheap. There were a lot of 'clubs' for everything, sports, art, wine, meat etc.

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?

They help you so well!! I got a room at a student building where I had 9 m² with my own bathroom and a shared kitchen. I only paid 250 a month (even less because I got CAF (French thing where students get help paying rent)).

b. What is the culture like?

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

The vegetarian options are not as good as in the Netherlands. But the people are super nice and really want to help. It is a big difference with the north of France!!

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

E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?

As a student u can get a 'pastel card' which costs 9 euros to get and then u can get for 13 euros a month a unlimited public transport thing (bus/tram/metro). But otherwise you pay 1.80 for 1.5 hours of travelling so it is super cheap. The public transport works really well, in the beginning they scared us with strikes but that happened maybe twice that it really bothered me.

6. Expenses

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

| Category | Expenses |
|---|--|
| Travelling there | 140 |
| Visa - if applicable | X |
| Vaccinations - if applicable | x |
| Insurances (extra) - if applicable | 29 (needed it for my room, not sure how much but not expensive) |
| Daytrips/sight-seeing | 800 (I think, I did a lot of trips) |
| Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation | 160 |
| Grocery costs per month | 200 (not sure, but most week night I ate at a student resto where the food was 3.30) |
| Public transport costs per month | 13 |
| Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month | 50 (did not do that very often) |

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

Groceries were most of the time more expensive and going out (parties) were more expensive than going out at student associations. Going out for dinner etc was around the same price.

c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?

Wine is cheap! And a lot of happy hours.

7. Free time

a. What are must-sees in the area?

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

Collioure, Barcelona, Montpellier !! I went with flibus

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

The barathon, three days of bar hopping in the city and everyone and every bar participates!

Definitely recommend participating!!

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Not really

b. Best memory?

I think all the parties here! Really liked that it was a big city with unlimited options for bars etc. and I really recommend joining ESN!!

9. Contact details

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| Is the reader allowed to contact the writer? | yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | no <input type="checkbox"/> |
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