



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student information

Study programme WU	BBC
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	08-01-2024 until 07-06-2024
Exchange destination: University	University of Reading
Faculty	Agriculture
Country	UK
City	Reading

2. Motivation for exchange

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

Partly to get out of my comfortable Wageningen bubble and partly to explore a new country with a new culture.

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

I wanted a country where they spoke English as their main language, I heard that a lot of people on their exchange only really spoke with other exchange people, and I thought it would be nice to be able to get to know the locals more. That narrowed the choice down quite a bit, and then the final decision was based on the University

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

I looked at the courses offered at quite a few Universities in English speaking countries and Reading seemed to have very interesting courses. Also Reading is very close to London, which is also an added benefit.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I was quite happy to be able to take the train, It was only 3,5 hours and aside from it being much more sustainable than flying I could also take more stuff and because it is relatively affordable to come there having people from Wageningen over to visit is also an option.

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	Human Resource Mangement	5	Learn about human resource management, its main principles, components and processes, such as: the role of human resource management in successful management and how it differs from the management of other resources; key motivation and behavioural theories and their value to the motivation of staff; team roles and composition; appropriate procedures for the recruitment of new staff; staff training and development; staff appraisal; performance management; effective delegation; and employment law.	4	Interesting course, What I liked was the fact that the course was given in quite a small room of people, which meant that it felt quite personal, it was still mostly lectures, however, which meant that the lecturer was talking quite a bit. The interactive parts were there though and that made it more fun. The lecturer also arranged two guest lectures which were very interesting.
2	Digital marketing	10	This module provides students with the key tools required to implement a successful digital marketing strategy. This includes understanding search engines, social media, content marketing and the analysis of web analytics data. Students will also build an understanding of the wider social and public policy issues that use of internet technology, including questions of regulation, privacy and use of customer data.	3	Lectures and projects were interesting but I didn't find the tutorials as helpful, they seemed a bit disorganised.
3	Programmin g in Python for data science		The module introduces students to the Python programming language and the Python data science library ecosystem through application of programming fundamentals, data processing, and machine learning techniques. Data manipulation and statistical	4	Course was pretty well executed, lectures were in Jupiter, so you could try the coding directly yourself, which made it much more interactive

			data science methods are also covered.		
4	Politics of climate change	10	The module is designed and taught in such a way as to reflect the importance and relevance of climate change across the wider discipline of political science, which includes comparative politics, international relations and political theory. This will be achieved through analysing climate change across a number of interconnected settings	5	Very interesting! This was my favourite course this exchange period, I like that the examination was writing essays and all the lectures and tutorials were very fascinating and engaging
5					
6					

b. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses that were taught in English: Yes, everything was in English.

c. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest: Yes, Even though I couldn't follow 2 of my original courses I still managed to find very interesting courses

d. I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed: The courses were on the easy side, I didn't have very many contact hours and the examination felt like it could have been more challenging at times, I do think that that is more a university thing than the specific courses I chose however.

e. I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed (Yes, No - Explain): Yes, I ended up doing very interesting courses to broaden my knowledge.

f. What is it like to study there?

E.g. Study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material?

It felt much easier, the examination was much more essay and project styled than exams, (for the for courses I followed I only had one exam, the rest was all projects, part of which were also group projects). I feel like these courses could've easily also included an exam, especially since some of them were 10 ects. The workload was also not too high, I started doing my thesis while I was there because I had so much spare time, on top of that my semester was done roughly 2 months prior to the Wur being done, so on top of having more free time than I would have at the WUR I was also done much sooner

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 lecturers were very approachable which I very much liked. There was quite a lot of engagement between us and the lecturers. The English students were also very approachable, so I would say the culture at the university was very good.

h. What does the university offer students additionally?

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

There were sports facilities on campus, I lived on campus and there were also laundry facilities there.

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 personally signed up for a room on campus, which there are quite a lot of choices for (on/near campus). This was quite expensive (around 800/month, in one of the cheaper options), but it saved me the hassle of searching for private rooms. And it included a cleaner that came twice a week.

b. What is the culture like?

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

- Aside from scones the local cuisine is not much to write home about,
- The University feels like it has a more diverse student population.
- I noticed that the Brits don't mind coming to Uni in their tracksuit, something that's quite unheard of in the Netherlands.
- Student associations like we know them are also not really a thing there, you did have societies which you can join to do a specific thing (either a sport or another activity).

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

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

I personally lived on campus, so I could have walked everywhere, I rented a bike however which was around 60 pounds and this made grocery runs much easier (The Aldi was around 30 minutes away without a bike) and despite there being a small shop on campus it was much more expensive. The campus was reachable by bus from Reading train station

6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	120 (round trip)
Visa - if applicable	X
Vaccinations - if applicable	X
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	X
Daytrips/sight-seeing	Around 40 for a day to London, 25 for a day to Oxford,
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	Roughly 800
Grocery costs per month (I shopped at Aldi, which saved alot)	170
Public transport costs per month	+50 (only for daytrips outside of Reading) did the rest either walking or by bike
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	0

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

A bit higher I would say (Accommodation was much higher and the rest was only slightly more)

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?

London!!! Its very nearby and despite costing 30 euros to get there and back well worth it as it is (in my opinion) one of the greatest cities in the world, with so much to see and do.

Oxford is also very close and definitely a recommendation.

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

Taking a train to a more rural area and doing a hike there.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Starting my social life from zero again was quite challenging, but I just talked to a lot more people than I do in Wageningen (which was also a quite fun experience).

b. Best memory?

Me and a friend I made a weekend trip to Newquay to go surfing and hiking, which was a very good end to my exchange period in the UK.

9. Contact details

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