



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student information

Study programme WU	BML
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	18-09-2023 until 09-06-2024
Exchange destination: University	Sabanci University
Faculty	Faculty of Engineering and Natural Science
Country	Turkey
City	Istanbul

2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to go out of my comfort zone and meet new people from different countries.

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

I was curious about the cultural differences.

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

The main reason of why I chose this university is that there was an agreement/partnership between Sabanci and Wageningen.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

The university is close to the airport and easy to reach with a taxi. Also the university provides shuttles that can pick you up from the metro station (and other locations).

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	Cancer biology	6	You learn about characteristics of cancer and treatment possibilities.	3.5	-
2	Neurobiology	6	Basic principles and	4	-

			neurodegenerative diseases.		
3	Cognitive processes	6	You learn about cognitive processes, such as attention, memory and imagery.	5	
4	Adolescent development & Mental health	6	How an individual changes during adolescence, also the influences of external factors.	5	-
5	Seminar in Memory and Attention	6	An discussion based learning course about memory (mainly episodic memory)	5	-
6	Multicellular Organization	6	How unicellular and multicellular organisms develop	3	-

b. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses that were taught in English (Yes, No - Explain): *Yes, all courses are in English.*

c. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest (Yes, No - Explain): *Yes, you can also choose courses from other faculties which I did and really liked.*

d. I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed (Yes, No - Explain): *Yes, I do think it is a little easier then Wageningen (but maybe that's because of the courses I chose).*

e. I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed (Yes, No - Explain): *Yes, I'm glad that I chose the courses I did and that some of them were out of my own field in Wageningen.*

f. What is it like to study there?

The main difference with Wageningen is that there are only two semesters in a year. A semester is around 14 weeks, so it is less intensive then Wageningen. You only have a course twice a week. For me, each course had a 100 minute class and 50 minute class each week. For most courses lesson materials were needed, everything was provided on SU-course.

g. What is the culture of the university?

It felt like an American University, because of the dorms on campus and the way the dining hall looked. The availability of the dorms on campus made hanging out with friends really easy. Also there are lots of different clubs that you can join. The local students try to engage with the internationals, but in general you hang out with other Erasmus students.

h. What does the university offer students additionally?

There is gym on campus (which is completely free), also you can do lots of sport activities. The dorms have a shared kitchen and a laundry room, where you can do your laundry for free (,you do need to buy laundry detergent). There are many student clubs that will suit your interests. There are multiple options to eat and drink on campus, the dining hall is quite cheap to eat, but you can also eat at subway, pizzabulls or piazza. There are also multiple coffee places, where you can get coffee or like a sandwich.

5. Housing-traveling-living

a. What are the possibilities for housing?

There are dorms on campus, there are 2 people, 3 people and 4 people rooms. For exchange students it is guaranteed that you'll have a room. It is also possible to rent a room in the city center.

b. What is the culture like?

In my opinion life is a little bit more chaotic, I feel like the Netherlands is more peaceful and calm.

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

The university provides shuttles (,you have to pay for them) that bring you or can pick you up from several places. You do need to check the shuttle times. The campus is far away from the city, and if you want to leave the campus you need to go with either the shuttle or by taxi. The shuttle can bring you to the nearest metro station, but the metro itself also takes around 45 minutes to get to kadikoy.

6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	200
Visa - if applicable	-
Vaccinations - if applicable	-
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	-
Daytrips/sight-seeing	50 (lots of museums are free if you have a museum card)
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	285
Grocery costs per month	100-150
Public transport costs per month	30
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	75-100

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

c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?

Because the currency of the Turkish lira it a lot of things are cheap. However, the prices can really differ regarding where you are in the city.

7. Free time

a. What are must-sees in the area?

I would recommend to go to museums in the city. In general they are free if you have a museum card. If you like skiing you can go to Uludag (Bursa).

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

A Bosphorus boat tour.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

There were no significant challenges, but I recommend talking to someone if you struggle. Many other exchange students are going through the same things.

b. Best memory?

There is not one memory that pops in my mind, but lots of them were with my roommate. We became really good friends and laughed a lot.

9. Contact details

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