



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student information

Study programme WU	Bedrijfs- en consumentenwetenschappen
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	05/02/2024 until 25/07/2024
Exchange destination: University	Universita degli Studi di Siena
Faculty	Economics & Business
Country	Italy
City	Siena

2. Motivation for exchange

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

It seemed an extraordinary experience to me to go to a whole new country alone. Just being able to fully experience the culture and all the other things that come with it. Of course also nice to meet some new people and have a change from normal life in Wageningen.

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

La dolce vita, seemed so nice to experience Italian culture.

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

It was my second choice, but I choose this because of the size, it is not too big a city and quite centrally located. The university also had decent information available. (that's not true for all Italian universities)

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I think plane is most easy, you can then fly on Pisa or Florence, both are good. Then just take the train.

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	<i>Advanced Management Control and Sustainable Development</i>	6	Management strategies relevant for sustainable development	3	Good teacher
2	<i>Business Intelligence</i>	6	Ways to visualize and transform data to help business decisions	5	To me very interesting, was a nice course
3	<i>Laboratory: Programming Skills for Economics</i>	3	R studio beginner course to simulate economic models	4	It was nice to learn the basics of R
4	<i>Sustainable Finance</i>	9	The strategic management and business economic subjects related to finance in a sustainable way.	2	Teacher a bit less nice, however course was okay
5					
6					

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

Yes, there were 5 studies in English (of the economic wider department) of which I could choose courses

c. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest (Yes, No - Explain):

Yes, there were enough, although not very many mind you.

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

yes, I followed master courses and that was a nice level for me. Wasn't much more than courses I had previously.

e. I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed (Yes, No - Explain):

Yes, most were interesting enough, and I still had a lot of free time.

f. What is it like to study there?

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

Study forms no clue what that means. Academic level a bit lower than the Wur but decent. Examination sometimes the same as at the wur, however also sometimes oral examination. That is something interesting but not in a bad way. Workload was not too much. Lesson material decent.

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?

About the same as at the WU. Quite approachable. Italians sticking a bit too themselves but so are we Dutch I guess. There are a lot of international students anyway so enough people to meet.

h. What does the university offer students additionally?

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

Catering is the only thing, Do not forget the caffè's. for the rest not that much.

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?

When I was there, the student complex organized by the university was closed for renovation. So only private rent was possible. There were quite a few rooms ranging from studio's to room in shared apartment, to sharing a room with someone else. Rent rates in the city center (inside the walls) are expensive most of the time. I paid 580 all included. Hard to find something, start well in advance, it takes some time for some to respond. (don't try villa socini by Vittoria, the landlady is crazy)

b. What is the culture like?

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

Good food. And don't dare say it is not, they will lynch you. A bit more focused on life, instead of working. And on health. It is a tranquil place, loved it for that. Learn to speak with your hands.

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

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

Everything in Siena city walls is done on foot. Most of the time a walk from 5 min till 30, almost no cars. To the rest of Italy you can go by train, (fliX) bus. Biking outside Siena is possible but a bit dangerous.

6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	500
Visa - if applicable	
Vaccinations - if applicable	
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	
Daytrips/sight-seeing	1000
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	580, room in shared apartment
Grocery costs per month	300
Public transport costs per month	50
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	160

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

Equal for groceries, lower for restaurants.

c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?

It's also a bit about how much you spend yourself, many trips or not. But it's probably going to be expensive.

7. Free time

a. What are must-sees in the area?

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

Small villages in Tuscany, Florence, Amalfi. Go before the summer, June latest I would say. Preferably before that. Better weather and less tourists.

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

Hiking, a lot of hikes trough Italy.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Italian academic office, don't worry, just keep emailing them and all. Just don't worry, a deadline is just recommendation after all over there.

b. Best memory?

Trips and going out with my other Internation friends over there. I advise to participate in the ESN activities, makes it easy to meet the other internationals. Go to Enea for the 3 euro Aperol spritz. Go to Philadelphia as last destination on a night out. Take the flavoured wodka shots, the unflavoured one is horrible.

9. Contact details

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