



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student information

<b>Study programme WU</b>	BSc Animal Sciences
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	24/01/2024 until 10/06/2024
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	Universidad Católica de Valencia San Vicente Mártir
<b>Faculty</b>	Facultad de Veterinaria y Ciencias Experimentales
<b>Country</b>	Spain
<b>City</b>	Valencia

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

To learn more about Marine Sciences in the Mediterranean, to meet new people, learn Spanish, and enjoy my time in another country.

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

The weather, the language.

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

This university had courses which were interesting to me, while other universities often didn't.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

It was an over all fun experience but this University is not of the best level. Workload is not high but exam difficulties were unnecessarily high. Lessons were mostly lectures and some practicals.

## 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	Spanish A2	6	Spanish language in A2 level	5	Very good teacher who makes learning fun.

2	Marine Botany	6	Learning everything about all kinds of microalgae, macroalgae, seagrasses and mangroves. From morphology to reproduction and life cycles.	5	It was quite a difficult course but thought really well and the teacher is great.
3	Marine Ecology	6	Learning about all parts of ecology in the marine environment, with computer practicals in excel.	3	Classes were not the best and often things were not explained in a great way.
4	Fisheries	6	Learning about different commercial fish and fishing techniques	2	The teacher was really bad and did not care about the students at all. Did not listen to complaints and was just rude. Did not put any effort into lectures, the exam was vague and not in correct English.
5					
6					

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

Yes, but the teachers were not the best in English, although it was mostly understandable.

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

Yes, marine biology is a big part of animal sciences while also exploring new concepts like botany.

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

No, I felt like the levels were way higher compared to the WUR when looking at amount of ECT's.

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

Yes, but I do wish some of the courses were higher quality.

**f. What is it like to study there?**

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

It was an over all fun experience but this University is not of the best level. Workload is not high but exam difficulties were unnecessarily high. Lessons were mostly lectures and some practicals.

**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 university is catholic, but it is not something that changes the learning experience. Generally, the lectures are too long (2+ hours) and can get quite boring.

**h. What does the university offer students additionally?**

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

There are sports associations at the university, but I didn't use them.

## 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?*

Housing is quite easy to find, but I would recommend booking a room early, often you don't have to pay the months that you are not there yet. I also really don't recommend Spotahome, I have heard good things about Flats2enjoy.

**b. What is the culture like?**

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

Spanish people are a bit slower, and you will often see the teachers coming late to their own class. The Spanish cuisine was personally not my favourite but I know lots of people like it. Spanish people are very open though and are often really welcoming.

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

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

There was free transportation with the Jove season ticket.

## 6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	194
Visa - if applicable	0
Vaccinations - if applicable	0
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	0
Daytrips/sight-seeing	50
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	335
Grocery costs per month	250
Public transport costs per month	5
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	50

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

A bit lower than in the Netherlands, but there are way cheaper places in Spain, so if you are looking for cheap you are better off in Granada for example.

**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?*

Morocco trip, Granada, Saint Jose coves, Buñol hiking area, Balearic Islands, Xátiva, Calpe, Jávea, are just some of my favourite ones but there is much more to see.

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

Buñol! Very beautiful.

## 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Getting my bag stolen with my laptop and lots of other things in it. Also getting assaulted. Both of which I filed police reports for but these processes were very long and terrible.

**b. Best memory?**

Probably everything which has to do with meeting my 2 good friends <3.

## 9. Contact details

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