



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student information

<b>Study programme WU</b>	Erasmus
<b>Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	02/02/2024 until 05/06/2024
<b>Exchange destination: University</b>	Ca Foscari university of Venice
<b>Faculty</b>	Humanities/Languages
<b>Country</b>	Italy
<b>City</b>	Venice

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

I wanted to experience what it is like to live in a different country, meet new people from different countries and travel in the country.

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

I like the culture in Italy, and wanted to experience from someone living there. I also liked the language, and this was a great opportunity to learn more about it. Italy is also not that far away from home, so I was able to have friends and family visit, which I really liked.

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

Its in Venice, which is such a beautiful city. Ca Foscari also offered a lot of courses that I found interesting and a lot of those courses were offered in English.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

By plane is the easiest. There are two airports, Marco Polo and Treviso, the flights to Treviso were in my experience often cheaper, since Ryanair flies from Eindhoven to Treviso.

## 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	Principles of International Accounting	6	The basics of accounting, with balance sheets,	3	I was hoping and expecting mostly making balance sheets,

			income statements, tabular analyses and journal entries.		income statements etc, but it covered a lot of theory about different international accounting bodies.
2	Psycholinguistics	6	The psychology behind the language and how this is researched.	5	Very interesting and a nice professor
3	Development of Economic Thought	6	The history of economic concepts.	2	The professor was just reading his own lecture notes in the lectures
4	Public Economics and Welfare System	6	Macro economic concepts and the role of the government in this.	4	Interesting and interactive classes
5	Food & Beverage Management	6	Management of food and beverage outlets, such as restaurants and hotels.	4	Professor was knowledgeable and fun to listen to, also the course contents were interesting.
6					

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

Yes, there were a lot of courses taught in English, especially economic courses.

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

No, I was expecting to be in the economic department as a consumer science student, but I was in the Humanities/Languages department and so I had to choose 4/5 courses within this department. Therefore, it was hard to find economic courses that I found interesting and were taught in English.

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

Yes, the courses were of a good level. Some were more difficult than others, but generally, the level was good.

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

Yes, I was able to take some courses that are a little different from my study program, and I found it very interesting to learn more about these topics.

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

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

All courses I took were only lectures, so no group projects or tutorials. For most courses (except maybe 2), I was not expected to do work at home, it was solely the lectures. There were 2 examination moments and students could choose in which moment they wish to do the exam. For me, this also meant that I was able to resit an exam in the second exam moment, if I failed the first exam. There was not a specific week in which exams were held; students could have their exams anywhere in May or June.

**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. The classes were small so it was easy to ask questions to the lecturer. The local students were mostly busy with their own things and friends, however, some were more open and I was able to make friends with some.

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

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

I think there were canteens in some buildings, however, I haven't used them. There were a lot of university libraries throughout the city.

## 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 was difficult. The university has housing on campus, and there are other student buildings in Mestre. Most people found housing in private rooms. Rent can be very high, especially on the Island of Venice. Rent rates in Mestre are a bit lower, but it can still cost a lot.

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

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

They eat later than at home, and are outside a lot more, even in the evening. Also, there are a lot of café's and bars with chairs outside where people go for a coffee or a drink. Even in February people were sitting outside in their coats drinking a spritz.

**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 got a VeneziaUnica card, which costed I think 25 euros for students. Every month I could pay 25 euros for unlimited usage of the busses and waterbusses. I lived in Mestre, so I would take the bus to Venice (10 minutes) and then walk to wherever my classes were (usually about 15 minutes depending on the campus).

## 6. Expenses

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

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	125
Visa - if applicable	-
Vaccinations - if applicable	-
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	-
Daytrips/sight-seeing	500
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	1000 (single room in student building)
Grocery costs per month	100
Public transport costs per month	25
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	70

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

Generally lower, specifically groceries were a lot cheaper than at home. Rent however, was very expensive

### c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?

Many students here share a room, the rent price would then be a lot cheaper. Also, if you're able to find private housing, then it would also probably be cheaper.

## 7. Free time

### a. What are must-sees in the area?

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

Venice itself has so much to do and to offer, but definitely go to the Lido, Burano and Murano (islands around Venice). Venice has a well connected train station and many flixbusses stop there. As for cities nearby, I would recommend Verona and Trieste, Bologna, Florence and Milan. I mostly did daytrips, because especially near the summer, the prices of hotels were very high, so I would take an early flibus and then return late in the evening to have a full day in the cities!

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

I would recommend doing the Biennale. It is an art festival throughout the city which is on in April-September I think. There are free exhibitions throughout the city, which are very fun to see. There is also the Giardini Biennale and the Arsenale, in which there are many other exhibitions. For these you have to pay an entrance fee, but it is worth it!

## 8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

Switching courses here because some were too difficult was a little stressful, but everyone was very helpful and I was able to switch quickly.

### b. Best memory?

I'll definitely remember the trips I've been on with the friends I've met here!

## 9. Contact details

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Name &amp; email address (if yes)</b>	Veerle van Ruth (veerle@vanruthgroep.com)	