



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Bsc Environmental Sciences
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	07/09/2022 until 04/02/2023
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Spain
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Cordoba
<b>University (exchange)</b>	University of Cordoba (UCO)
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Escuela Técnica Superior de Ingeniería Agronómica y de Montes (ETSIAM)

## 2. Motivation for exchange

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

During my bachelor study I missed quite a big part of the student life due to COVID. Therefore, I wanted to create some delay in my study so that I didn't need to start immediately with a Master afterwards. I already did a minor at Wageningen, but I decided to do an additional one in another country to see how it is studying at another university and to travel a lot.

### What is the reason you chose for this country/university?

As I went on an exchange during the winter semester, I wanted to go to a country where the weather is nice and sunny. The south of Spain perfectly fits for that. Besides, a lot of courses on other universities in Spain are only taught in Spanish, which I do speak only a little bit. The university of Cordoba also offers courses in English and it is located in the beautiful province of Andalusia, with so many nice cities and things to explore. The choice was easily made.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

### Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination? (E.g. bus, train, etc.)

Cordoba doesn't have an airport, so you have to fly either on Sevilla or Malaga and then take the train to Cordoba (which is only 1 hour). I chose to fly on Malaga, because it was a little bit cheaper. However, be aware of the fact that the last train from Malaga to Cordoba leaves at 20:15. So, plan your travel otherwise you have to spend the night in Malaga and book a hostel last minute.

You can also check the flights on Madrid, but the train from Madrid to Cordoba is rather expensive. If you choose this option, then consider to take a blablacar to Cordoba, as it might be cheaper.

## 4. University and studying

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	Hydrology and Erosion	6	Quite a heavy course about water and soil processes which includes a lot of physics	2	
2	Forest Hydrology	4,5	Discusses the hydrological cycle related to forests. The teacher is very nice.	4	
3	Quality and Business	6	Easy to pass course related to entrepreneurship in the business field. The course does not include economics, and comprises only lectures and some weird "practicals". The teacher is really nice to the students and the exam was very easy to pass.	5	
4	Enzymology	6	Quite a hard chemistry course about enzymes. The work load is very high and there are a lot of assignments, multiple reports and presentations that you have to do. I wouldn't recommend this course without having the proper background.	1	

**How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)**

The university is really chaotic sometimes, which created a lot of funny moments in the first few weeks. However, the Spanish people were very nice to me and helped me a lot. The academic level and workload is lower compared to the Netherlands, but it depends on which courses you take and the background level you have. The examination level is quite low.

**What is the culture of the university? (E.g. How approachable are the lecturers, engagement with local students? What are the differences with the WUR?)**

The culture of the university is very nice. Lectures are easy to approach and willing to provide individual help. Also the students are very welcoming and sometimes approached me and my friends to join them. However, a lot of Spanish people really struggle with speaking English or don't want to speak it at all. So, learn some Spanish and try to approach them with some Spanish words, they will appreciate that and help you with whatever your question is.

**What does the university offer the student additionally? (E.g. Catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?)**

There is a nice big library on the campus and a huge outside swimming pool. The best thing about the campus was the catering area, where you can buy breakfast (tostada con jamon!!) and lunch really cheap. Also on Friday they have the famous Friday afternoon drink (VrijMiBo) where you can buy beers with free tapas. There is also a huge speaker blasting reggaeton music. I really recommend this event.

## **5.Housing-travelling-living**

**What are the possibilities for housing? (E.g. Availability to sign up for a room on campus, private rooms, rent rates?)**

There is no possibility to live on the campus, but I also wouldn't recommend that because the campus is outside the city and there is nothing to do there. Try to find a house in the city centre or in the student neighbourhood called "Ciudad Jardin". Good organisations that provide good rooms and fast communication are Interasmundo and Solrent. Avoid facebook groups, almost everything there is a scam. Some of my friends had to learn that the hard way.

**What is the culture of the country like? (E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?)**

The Spanish people are really nice and friendly, but most of them, especially in the south don't speak Spanish. So, I can really recommend to spend some time on learning Spanish before you arrive in Cordoba. This will make your life much easier. The cuisine is really good, including the famous tapas, which is also really cheap if you share with others.

**Could you give a general price indication of the place of residence compared to living in Wageningen?**

In Wageningen I pay around 400 euros, while living in Spain I only had to pay 240 for my room. Overall, the housing prices are much lower compared to the Netherlands. I think you shouldn't pay more than 300 euros for a room in Cordoba.

**Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure? (E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?)**

If you have to travel to Rabanales (the technology campus), you have to take the train. No worries, it's only 5 minutes by train. The university will provide you a card, by which you travel to the university for free. However, you have to request this card at the train station, which will take some time. So, try to do this as soon as possible when you arrive, because otherwise you have to pay for the train in the first week. Also don't forget that you have to give them a printed picture of you for the travel card (same as for your identity card).

## 6. Free time

**What are must-sees in the area? (E.g. nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?)**

The city centre of Cordoba is really beautiful with a lot of historic buildings, including the Mezquita (cathedral). Outside the city you can visit Medinat Azahara, which is a historic complex that functioned as Arabic palace centuries ago. In Andalusia you have to see the cities of Sevilla, Granada, Malaga and Cadiz. Also I can recommend to go to Cazorla, which is a really nature area located about two hours from Cordoba.

**What does not appear in the travel guide, but is worth a visit?**

The nature area of Cazorla. A Spanish friend of mine that I met in class told me a lot about this area and we decided to spend a weekend there with some other people in a beautiful house in the middle of the nature park. Especially in autumn, when the leaves change colour, it's really amazing there.

**Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time (E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?)**

In the city centre there are a lot of good restaurants where you can eat tapas with friends. Some cheaper options are located in Ciudad Jardin (visit the "canadian restaurant"). The nightlife in Cordoba is quite good and there are multiple clubs where you can go to enjoy the Spanish parties.

## 7. Challenges & best moment abroad

**What was a challenge you have experienced?**

Organising stuff in Spain is sometimes painful, as the Spanish people don't speak a lot of English and are very laid back (read; tranquilo). So, you have to adapt a little bit to their lifestyle, but when you do so you will experience that life is very relaxed in Spain.

### **What was your best memory abroad?**

All the trips and parties that we went to with friends

### **8. Contact details (optional)**

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