



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Bsc Agrotechnologie
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	23/09/2019 until 02/02/2020
Country (exchange)	Belgium
City (exchange)	Leuven
University (exchange)	KU Leuven
Faculty (exchange)	Bioscience Engineering

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

Exchange is a great way to broaden your horizon. I chose to go on study exchange because I wanted to develop myself. Living in another country, meeting new people, widen my network were important factors for me to go on exchange.

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

To make a choice for a certain university I mainly looked at what it offered. I knew that wherever I would go, I would meet people from all over the world. This meant that I didn't really feel the need to go far away. The courses KU Leuven offered seemed very interesting which made me choose to go there.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

I travelled by train to the exchange destination. It took me over 4 hours, but it was manageable. The advantage is that you can walk to every place in Leuven from the train station. It should be mentioned that there are three campuses. Depending on the faculty, it might be smart to look into this, because only one campus is near the city centre.

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	Agro-systems	6	This course focusses on the analysis of different agro-systems in the tropics. On the basis of general information, you learn how to analyse a system and how to give recommendations for improvements.	5	I scored this course the highest, because it was all new for me. I learned to look at farms in the tropics at a different way.
2	Integration of biological responses in process management	6	This course is about modelling biological processes.	3	The course is taught by different professors, this causes that some parts are better taught than others.
3	Sustainable Precision Livestock Farming	5	This course talks about the current situation of precision livestock farming, how to apply current techniques, but also how the future techniques will look like and how this will have impact in lives of farmers and researchers.	4	The exam includes a lot of different aspects, from equations to personal thoughts. This makes it interesting.
4	Dierenfysiologie	5	In this course, certain processes in the body are discussed. E.g. respiratory system and cardiovascular system	2	My appreciation for this course is low, because the way it is taught makes it really difficult to keep up. The knowledge is only applied during the exam.
5	Global Environmental Politics	6	Learning about environmental politics is what this course is about. E.g. what measures are taken to prevent disasters. It also includes a UN simulation.	4	United nations simulation gives a lot of inside in negotiation strategies and the different factors that play a role.
6	Europe's Climate, energy and environmental policies: internal and external dimensions	4	Lots of different guest speakers, in the end one policy analysis paper had to be written.	4	New course, thus changes will occur in coming years.

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

The academic year exists of 2 semesters. In each semester a certain amount of ECTS is taught. After this semester, all exams will take place in 2 weeks. This means that you need to focus for a longer period of time on different courses. The lesson material for me was all digital. The academic level is good, it is difficult to compare to the level of the WUR because most courses are totally different from what I did in Wageningen. The courses that I can compare are of an equal level.

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 lectures I had were really approachable in a formal way. The lecturers that were more difficult to approach had an assistant, who could answer the questions. The engagement with students is lower compared to the WUR.

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

The university offers student restaurants which serve different meals during the week. It also offers a great sports facility with different fields and halls. You can use a hall if you are in possession of a sports card. It also provides a culture card, which allows you to attend cultural activities for a better price.

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 a lot of student housing throughout the city. The university offers "Kotlabels", which are a sign for good housing. The rent rate is higher than in Wageningen. I found my housing via kotwijs, a site which allows students and landlords to (sub)rent their rooms.

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

The culture of the country is almost the same as in Wageningen.

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

I paid €336,-. I think the price is around €325,- or higher.

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

I travelled to university by bike. It is possible that some courses are (partly) taught in Brussels, which would mean you have to go by train. For this, you can get a certain card which allows you to travel for a certain amount of times from and to Brussels for a reduced price.

6. Free time

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

After you've have seen Leuven itself, you can go visit other cities in Belgium. It is really nice to do this with a great, for example use organized trips from ESN.

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

The biggest student event in Belgium is the 24h run. For 24 hours straight, runners will run 520 meter circles. The team with the most distance wins.

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

Become part of a study or student association, this allows you to attend activities and easily get new friendships. You can also join sports sessions organised by the university.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

For me it was difficult to stay in contact with the people I met first, during the first week you get to know a lot of people due to the introduction. But because of different faculties or courses it was difficult to keep in contact. By attending activities of ESN and joining a sports team I overcame this.

What was your best memory abroad?

Two great memories are the different sessions we had with the volleyball team and of course the 24h run.

8. Contact details

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail	emiel.smook@wur.nl	