



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

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| Field of study in Wageningen | Bachelor of science Tourism |
| Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy) | 22-9-2021 until 05/02/2022 |
| Country (exchange) | Belgium |
| City (exchange) | Ghent |
| University (exchange) | Ghent University |
| Faculty (exchange) | Faculty of Economics |

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I have chosen to go on exchange, because I wanted to go out of my comfort zone and to develop myself by living on my own abroad. On top of that, I wanted to acquire knowledge and I think that is possible when you study at an other university.

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

To be honest, I wanted to go to Spain and Belgium was my 3rd choice because of possible COVID-restrictions I thought Belgium would not be cancelled quickly. On top of that, Ghent is a nice place and they have a good university there.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

By Flixbus, quick and cheap.

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 | Economy A | 4 | General basis economy | 3 | doable |
| 2 | International Economics | 5 | International trade, demand and supply, interconnected | 1 | Too difficult |
| 3 | Environment-Economy | 4 | The connections between economy, nature and society | 4 | Interesting but difficult |
| 4 | Micro- Economics | 6 | Graphs and formulas, demand and supply | 1 | Too difficult |
| 5 | Development Economics | 5 | How is the world developing, inequality, climate change, connections between economy, nature and society | 4 | Interesting but difficult |
| 6 | Introduction to the EU right | 6 | Basic knowledge about the European Union. How are procedures done and specific cases are discussed | 2 | Too difficult, although it says it is an introduction course |

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

Only lectures, 2 essays in total. A lot of workload, and all exams are in the same month. There is only one exam period, which is after 5 month of lectures.

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?)

Belgium students are not open and really closed, difficult to get in contact with them. For Dutch people, Belgium people and teachers have a strong accent, which is difficult to understand.

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

Nice sporting and catering facilities. For example, it is possible to play football 5 times for 15 euros every Wednesday or Thursday evening.

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?)

The university has a campus, but a long waiting list. A lot of airbnbs and upkots as well in Gent. Upkots are cheaper, Airbnb are expensive in Gent.

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

The Belgium kitchen is better than the Dutch kitchen, a lot of unhealthy food. Also the people are different, Belgium people do not like it when you are brutal and honest, while in the Netherlands it is normal that you say what you think.

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

Ghent is of course a city, so it is normal that it is more expensive than Wageningen.

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

Everything is possible by bike in the city itself. The public transport in the city and in Belgium in general is cheap.

6. Free time

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

Nice churches, nice castle, the street of bars, the football stadium, and Paris, Lille and Amsterdam are not far from Ghent, but are nice places to visit.

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

Brugge, Liege and Luxembourg are also nice.

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

Plan on time so you can do the things that you want to do.

7. Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

A challenge was the level of education in Ghent, for me the level of education was too high.

What was your best memory abroad?

My best moment was meeting people from abroad that became my friends.

8. Contact details (optional)

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