



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	MAM – Aquaculture and marine resource management
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	30/08/2021 until 09/02/2022
Country (exchange)	Belgium
City (exchange)	Gent
University (exchange)	Gent University
Faculty (exchange)	Bioscience Engineering

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

Because there were courses at the destination University that were not offered at WUR. Moreover, to live in another city/country, learn new traditions and expand both my professional and personal networks.

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

Mainly because of the courses that were offered. Plus, the University was known for its reputation in the field and the city was known to be very suitable for students.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

The cheapest way is to get a Flixbus from Utrecht to Bruxelles, and then a train from Bruxelles to Gent.

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	<i>Diseases in Aquaculture</i>	6	It provides an overview of the diseases affecting the aquaculture sector, a case study about fish hatcheries and vaccination protocols, plus a practical about clinical investigation of fish	3	Many lecturers contribute to this course and the content is sometimes overlapping, and there is not a common line. The end-result is somewhat confusing.
2	<i>Viral Disease Management</i>	3	It includes theoretical descriptions of methods to detect viruses and viral diseases affecting aquaculture operations	3	The approach is too theoretical. Viral diseases, apart from WSSV that was described in detail, are only presented as walls of text, and read by the lecturer.
3	<i>Fish and Shellfish Immunology</i>	4	It is a detailed course targeting the immune system functioning of fish and shellfish	5	Very detailed course that meets the expectations
4	<i>Aquatic Microbial Community Management</i>	3	It provides insights about the role of the microbiota in controlling diseases in aquaculture	5	Interesting course that offers notions on biofloc and innovative strategies to control pathogen outbreaks in aquaculture operations
5	<i>Internship</i>	5	Practical training was offered In a company farming shrimp in a Biofloc recirculating aquaculture system	2	The company was not meeting proper labour safety standards and the level of the work performed was not aligned to the learning goals of a Master of Science
6	<i>Aquaculture Genetics</i>	6	It is a detailed course on aquaculture genetics that allowed me to understand what the best practices of genetic traits selection targeted at enhancing the resistance and growth of aquaculture animals	5	Very detailed course that meets the expectations

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

The workload is appropriate, but the academic level is too theoretical. It is more based on learning the explanations of the lecturers by heart rather than problem-based learning.

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?)

In my faculty, lecturers were often available and there was a rather informal atmosphere. Students were mainly international in my classes. There are no main differences with WUR in this regard.

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

Sport facility, bike repair stations, welcome events with free food&drinks, additional study rooms

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?)

Rent rates go from 350€/month up. Dorms accommodation cost around 450€/month, while private accommodation can cost a bit less.

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

Many Belgian students go back to their homes in the weekend, so Gent becomes empty of students. However, international students remain. The city is more active during the weekdays.

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

Considering rent + daily/food expenses, with an active lifestyle of going out around 3-4 days per week + going sometimes on trips around Belgium, I was spending 900-950€ in total per month

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

Public transport ticket cost 2€ per ride. Taxi I do not know but they told me that are expensive. University can be reached via bike since the bike infrastructures are good in the city.

6. Free time

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

Lille, Bruges, Bruxelles, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Utrecht, The Hague

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

I advise the map <https://www.use-it.travel/cities/detail/ghent/> to get to know the city as a real local student! It is full of amazing places for food/music/drinks

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

In this map there is all you need! <https://www.use-it.travel/cities/detail/ghent/>

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

No particular challenges, the city is very welcoming, and the Erasmus association organized many events to know people. I felt at home from the very beginning.

What was your best memory abroad?

A trip to the Netherlands with a van with 9 friends, the nights together chatting at the dorms, the parties at Overpoort or at Bar Des Amis, the student life in my campus, the lectures, the overall vibrant vibe of the city!! Difficult to choose!

8. Contact details (optional)

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