



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	International development
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	7-07-2022 until 6-12-2022
Country (exchange)	South Africa
City (exchange)	Stellenbosch
University (exchange)	Stellenbosch University
Faculty (exchange)	Arts and social sciences

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I thought it was a nice opportunity to go and live abroad for a while which was something I wanted to do anyway from a young age. I found it interesting to meet new people and experience university in another country.

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

I chose for Stellenbosch university since I thought South Africa was a beautiful and interesting country and high on my list of places I wanted to visit. Next to that, I also thought studying there could offer interesting insights in my field of study.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Not really any tips, by plane.

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	Overview of SA history	12	Studying South Africa's history such	5	Really interesting lectures and the ways of assessment

			as colonialism and the Apartheid era but its not limited to that and goes way further back in history since that is all quite recent.		was insightful as you had to delve into a topic yourself and also formulate an opinion.
2	Introduction to international relations and African politics	12	Quite a lot of factual and theoretical information on the structures and actors in politics applied to the African context and history in politics	3	The book used and the essay subjects were really interesting and on a high level but the lectures did not compare in my opinion. The lectures were too much just reading theory and too little examples of application in the real world.
3	Political development	8	Goes over the history of Asia, Africa and Latin America and why certain events and situations directly or indirectly caused the political situation nowadays in countries and the continents.	5	Nice course book and very clear.
4	Social issues in South Africa	12	Discussed gender and sexuality and the topic of health in the period I followed it in the context of South Africa, how it used to be and how the topics are seen now in the country compared to other countries.	3.5	Course description showed a lot more topics that would be discussed, was not expecting only two. The topics were given by different professors, liked way of teaching of some better than others.
5	Introduction to earth systems science	16	Purely theoretical course on processes and materials, such as different types of rocks, how the rocks are formed related to vulcanism and earthquakes or plate tectonics.	4	Intense course in terms of workload in my opinion. Lectures were online, being able to rewind was handy but maybe missed having a lecturer for some topics.
6					

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

I think both study forms, examinations, academic level and workload varied a lot per course for me but also from what I know from students who had different courses. In general, for most courses, I would say workload was divided differently. You would have days/weeks in which workload was low and days/weeks in which it was significantly higher. You take all courses in a semester at the same time namely, so for ¾ months instead of having two courses rounding them off and then taking two more courses separately.

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?)

I think the approachability is quite similar to the WUR and it of course differs per lecturer but in general they were very helpful and approachable as long as they had the feeling you were putting in effort in the course yourself as well.

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

There is student centre with different kind of cafes and restaurants, and you get an amount of money on your student card you can spend there on food. They have all kinds of sports teams you can join and have a large complex with a running track, large gym and swimming pools.

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?)

You can sign up for a room via the university. The rent rates are quite high, in between 500-700 euros. Relatively speaking it is nicer to find a room through private housing as you get a lot more for your money.

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

the cuisine has a lot of fish but is not extremely different from what were used to in the Netherlands. It is almost or is cheaper to order take out or go out for dinner instead of cooking. The people are more laid back compared to back home, they do not worry too much and take there time for every task.

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

I think 630 rent + 300 food on food in Stellenbosch on average. In Wageningen rent is less but food per month might be similar but here it would be cooking yourself and there it wasn't.

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

University was walking distance for almost everybody. Furthermore you would basically only use Uber which was quite cheap. A 50 minute drive to Cape Town for example was approximately 30 euros per car and short trips to the gym or close by wine estates were in between 3 to 10 euros.

6. Free time

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

My favorite wine estate to visit regularly was Lanzerac. The must visits in my opinion are Oldenburg, Rust en Vrede and Ernie Els Wines. There are a lot of hikes in the area, a favorite close by was the second waterfall hike. The Garden route is nice to do and renting a car for that is the best way. Renting a car was nice in general, relatively cheap. If you only do a part of the garden route up until Knysna for example, it is possible in a long weekend. If you go further away, in the recess week is the best time to go.

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

music festivals

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

In Stellenbosch our favourite place to go out was De Lapa. In Cape Town that would be village idiot which is a restaurant at first but turns into a club after. First Thursdays of the month are nice in Cape Town, museums are free than and a lot of people go out. Restaurants in Stellenbosch that are nice are Post and Pepper, man'oushe and fat butcher (more expensive ones). Java was an okay restaurant that has a lot of options and therefore nice for a regular dinner. In Capetown Kloofstreet house is a really nice place, also a little more expensive. We went surfing at strand often and in Cape Town camps bay is a beautiful beach and the Clifton beaches are relaxing.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

I think realizing you do not click with everyone and realizing that is okay.

What was your best memory abroad?

To pick one is quite hard but the trip through Mozambique is definitely in the top three.

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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