



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Study programme WUR	BCL
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	17/07/2023 until 10/12/2023
Exchange destination: University	University of Pretoria
Faculty	Humanities
Country	Zuid Afrika
City	Pretoria

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I really wanted to live abroad for an extended period of time, meet new people, experience another environment and come out of my social 'bubble'.

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

I read that in a lot of countries the universities 'teaches' in English but in practice this doesn't happen. So I wanted to be sure I could attend every lecture in English. Also I'm interested in politics and history and South Africa is a super interesting country in that case! Also it has a lot of beautiful nature and kind people.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

By plane is easiest. When in the country, watch out with public transport. However when you know locals and they take you the minibus is kind of safe.

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	History	6	Actually for all the courses the name says it all.		
2	International relations	10			
3	Political science	10			
4	Criminology	10			
5					
6					

What is it like to study there?

A lot of fellow students told me that they thought studying abroad is easy, I don't agree with that you have to get used to a lot of other rules and the uni has high standards. However workload was similar to Wageningen.

What is the culture of the university?

Teaching in this faculty means a lot of in class discussions, almost no group work, very precise standards to assignments. The material is interesting and most lectures are very good at what they do and have some humor.

What does the university offer students additionally?

It is similar to Wageningen, a lot of places to get food on campus, practising sports is a little bit more effort to arrange for your self but you'll find your way.

5.Housing-travelling-living

What are the possibilities for housing?

The university arranges the housing as far as I know, it's nice and you'll live with other exchange and south African students. It is everything but luxurious but I liked it. Rent was about 300 euro's a month.

What is the culture of the country like?

People are super super nice! Everyone is very willing to help and engaging with you. There is still social segregation because of apartheid and that can be confronting. But as an exchange student I could hang out with everyone and didn't really face difficulties.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

Most people travel by Uber, there is the Gautrain from Pretoria to Johannesburg and there is an informal network of minibuses, don't go in there alone and don't hitchhike.

6. Expenses

Can you give an indication of your expenses for/during your exchange?

E.g. you can also indicate price differences (higher/lower/equal) in comparison to the Netherlands.

Ticket there: 1400

Visa if applicable: 50

Vaccinations if applicable: 0

Insurances (extra, if applicable): 180

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: 300

Groceries: 150

Public transport: idk but more than in the Netherlands
Restaurant/going out for dinner: between 10 and 25 pp
Daytrips/sight-seeing: about 100 for a weekend nearby in total

Additional remarks regarding expenses?

7. Free time

What are must-sees in the area?

I really liked Johannesburg, Soweto, Hartbreespoort and if you want to go further Drakensberg is very cool when you like hiking and Kruger.

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

Drakensberg and Johannesburg, some people won't go because they think it is not safe. I think If you just watch yourself you'll be fine and it really has its charm.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

In the neighbourhood Hatfield where we lived you had a lot of (very loud) clubs and I really liked it. Try to go out with South Africans, they are super easy going and you will go to different places than the regular tourist.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

What challenges did you encounter and how did you overcome them?

Social segregation, I never thought of being white as part of my identity but then it is and you need to take into account in conversations how privileged you are.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

Having BBQ's every weekend and joking around with total strangers.

9. Contact details (optional)

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