



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

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| Study programme WUR | BSc International land and water management |
| Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy) | 17/7/2023 until 15/12/2023 |
| Exchange destination: University | Stellenbosch University |
| Faculty | Agrisciences/Engineering |
| Country | South Africa |
| City | Stellenbosch |

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I thought that studying and living in another environment in another place in the world is a very unique experience. Where you have the opportunity to see a lot at the place where you are going. Meet a lot of new people and friends in very unexpected places and also have the possibility to develop yourself as a person

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

South Africa has always been on the top of my bucket list to see and go to, the country is beautiful with a unique combination of climate and nature. The main academic language is also English, so all courses are taught in a language that I could already speak. Stellenbosch as a city is known for its village feeling with a roaring student life, when the students are gone the city is a lot more quiet. But, they had courses that I really looked forward to and the location is very good, close to Cape Town and surrounded by mountains.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

The whole process did go quite okay for me, there was sufficient communication from the university regarding the arriving procedure. A few small tips:

- Apply for your visa very much in time, so start with the process as soon as possible
- Look good into where you are going to live, university has accommodations but private options are sometimes better. Keep the location most in mind.

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 | Agricultural policy in South African context | 8 | International trade, deregulation and the future of agriculture. All related to mainly South Africa. With a lot of guest lecture about different policies. | 3 | Type of examination was not the best fitting in my opinion |
| 2 | Open Channel flow and water treatment | 7,5 | Engineering course about open channel flow (velocities, discharges, losses, type of flows, hydraulic jumps) and about hydraulic structures (dams, spillways, gates, flumes etc.) | 5 | |
| 3 | Introduction grapevine and wine sciences | 4 | First years course. Basics of the vines and how the grapes grow. Different types of grapes. The basics of the winemaking process and the different type of wines | 4 | Some moments the class discussions switched to Afrikaans instead of English. |
| 4 | Afrikaans language and culture for Dutch and Belgium | 6 | Learning about the differences between Afrikaans and Dutch. But most part is about the culture of Afrikaans and how it evolved over history. Including themes such as identity, origin, music and land. | 5 | |
| 5 | Practical conservation | 6 | Ecology and conservation practices in South Africa. With a lot of inclusion of the African wild life and Kruger area. | 3 | This course will not be included in the study handbook next year. |
| 6 | | | | | |

What is it like to study there?

E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material.

The university has a different study form, there are a lot more things officially mandatory to be present in the classes. They also work with a lot more continuous assessment, sometimes even weekly tests. The academic level and workload is around the same as Wageningen. The examination form is thus more continuous, I also had a few courses that had a different type of questions during the examinations, more direct learning questions. Lesson material is a lot online and with slides.

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?

Most lecturers are very approachable and are open to questions and a conversation when then talking to the lecturers. The local students are very open and will make contact with you very quickly.

What does the university offer students additionally?

E.g. catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?

There is a student mall with food facilities as well as catering in the residences. The university has a sports ground and sports clubs of a lot of sports, of which a lot you can join for the one semester.

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 university accommodation that you can apply for, private rooms, apartments and rooms in student houses are also available. Contact quickly when knowing you are going to Stellenbosch, because there can be a shortage in the private accommodations. Rent rates differ a lot per location and type of accommodation, but often between 300-500 euros a month.

Tips:

- Email accommodations directly, even if online states that it is full or application closed. They often have a few rooms left for exchange students
- Location is key, South Africa is not as safe as the Netherlands and some areas are better to live than others.

What is the culture of the country like?

E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?

The South African culture is very open and inviting. The greeting way, even when meeting people for the first time is giving a hug. The local cuisine is often meat based, most famous the braai. There are also a lot of sweet regional things to eat.

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 does not exist currently, uber is the main way of transport on larger distances or in the dark. Short distance and to the university by foot most of the times. Cycling is also an option. Uber prices within Stellenbosch, thus short trips, about 2-4 euro. Longer trips for example to the nature parks or Cape Town between 10 and 20 euros.

Renting a car is also a very viable option, which is quite affordable.

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: retour 1300 euro (both flights in vacation period)

Visa if applicable: including arranging all documents ca. 150 euros

Vaccinations if applicable:

Insurances (extra, if applicable): South African health insurance is mandatory, about 150 euros for the 6 months

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: Private accommodation 450 euros/month

Groceries: lower than the Netherlands

Public transport: non existent, but Uber is about the same with Dutch public transport prices
Restaurant/going out for dinner: A lot cheaper then Netherlands
Daytrips/sight-seeing: lower than the Netherlands

Additional remarks regarding expenses?

7. Free time

What are must-sees in the area?

E.g. nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?

Jonkershoek, Cape town (table mountain, city centre, Robben Island), wine estates, markets.

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

Boschendaal Friday night market and root 44 market.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?

Explore as much as you can!

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

I had a little moment of culture shock, with mostly not completely knowing where I was standing with the people I met here and what to do a few of the times. I made a very close friend here, we just went some places in the area. Also calling and contacting friends from Wageningen that had done an exchange earlier and asking if they had the same and what they did to get going again.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

All the people that I met, I made friends for life here.

9. 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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