



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	BSc Plant Sciences
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	13-03-2023 until 17-06-2023
Country (exchange)	Australia
City (exchange)	Sydney
University (exchange)	University of Sydney
Faculty (exchange)	Science

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I heard many positive experiences about people going through personal growth on exchange and wanted to experience this for myself

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

USYD is a renowned university with a mission to improve the world through applied knowledge, which aligns with my values. Furthermore, I wanted to improve my English (speaking).

3. Accessibility to reach destination

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

Plane is the only way to go. I did a flight with a 19 hr layover which was the best decision as I could stay in a hotel and catch a full 8 hrs of sleep while paying less due to the long layover. Win win.

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	Diet and Nutrition for Health and Sport	7.5	The course gives a basic understanding about the core principles of diet and shows students how to have a healthier diet. Furthermore, common myths are debunked to allow students to be more critical about food trends.	4	Maybe some interactive practicals would have been a nice addition, but over all a very interesting and well organized course
2	Production Horticulture	7.5	This course gives insight in Australian horticulture. It covers many aspects of horticulture, from sowing dates to nutrient uptake and pest management	4	The course is very interesting and has nice excursions and practicals. The teachers are enthusiastic, but the course did feel a bit unorganized at times. Yet, I still really enjoyed it
3	Psychology 1001	7.5	Psychology starter course. Has nothing to do with clinical psychology, so beware. The science and psychology history is interesting though	?	Due to illness I had to discontinue
4	Urban Citizenship and Sustainability	7.5	Social science course about climate injustice and the creation of a fair urban environment	?	Due to illness I had to discontinue, but the course seemed very well put together and the teachers were truly inspiring.
5					
6					

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

All courses had at least one essay and exam. Additionally, lectures were given each week as well as tutorials, which are often mandatory.

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?)

The University seemed to pride itself in helping all students stay on board with a wide range of support offered. When I got sick, however, I realised that due to the large scale of the university it was more bureaucratic and actually getting help or an extension has been proven to be troublesome with multiple parties within the university not communicating. The atmosphere overall was very good though, just like the WUR.

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

I lived in university accommodation, and it basically had everything I could wish for and more. Laundry, sport facilities, music rooms and more.

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 room I had was arranged for exchange students and was a ton of fun. I lived in the Queen Mary Building, which is full of exchange students and it has a fun and social atmosphere.

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

I would say it is more relaxed and diverse, which both are pleasant and refreshing. A large difference is the difference in size of Sydney and Wageningen, with Sydney obviously having more to offer, but both having its own charm. Over all I have found Australians to be very accepting and polite and willing to help.

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

Living is a lot more expensive. I paid around 900 euros per month for my room, which is a lot more than the 400 euros in Wageningen.

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

Travel by bus to the supermarket and campus is pretty cheap, especially with a student opal card which is similar to a OV kaart and offers a 50% discount. Bikes are of no use there so keep this in mind.

6. Free time

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

I've heard a great deal about the blue mountains, which was apparently stunning. Additionally, the city center is just beautiful with a mix of old and new buildings. I found the best beach to be manly beach, which is a little over an hour away from the accommodation and includes a ferry ride that has a great view on the harbor.

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

Sadly I have not seen too much due to long covid, but I would say make sure to visit all the nearby beaches which are all stunning

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

King street is nice and close by. There are lots of restaurants there. The nigh life is oddly enough not too great for a big city and it takes some time to find nice clubs. Food is everywhere though, so finding a place for dinner is an easy job.

7.Challenges & best moment abroad

What was a challenge you have experienced?

I experienced a long term illness, which sadly left me bedbound for a good portion of my stay.

What was your best memory abroad?

The country is ABSOLUTELY stunning. When I get better I will for sure return to finish what I wanted to do there. If you are debating where to go, look no further.

8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name/e-mail		