



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

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| Study programme WUR | Master Food Technology |
| Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy) | 13/07/2023 until 16/11/2023 |
| Exchange destination: University | University of Wollongong |
| Faculty | |
| Country | Australia |
| City | Wollongong |

2. Motivation for exchange

Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I always wanted to go on exchange for the experience and my plans were cancelled in my Bachelor's due to covid, so I decided to go in my masters.

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

Australia has always been on top of my list, and Wollongong sounded perfect – not too big, but still close to Sydney and next to the beach.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination?

Public transport was super accessible in this part of NSW. Fly to Sydney, take the metro to Wolli Creek and from there take a direct train to Wollongong (1.5 hours).

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 | Introduction to Photography 2 | 7.5 | Learning the principles of portrait photography. | 4 | Course I took for fun. Learned to properly use my camera and in the end we had to shoot a series of portraits. |
| 2 | Sustainable Energy Technologies | 7.5 | Learn the principles of and calculations on renewable energy sources like wind, solar and wave energy. | 2 | Designed for Mechanical Engineers, which I am not. I felt like I had way to little technical background. |
| 3 | Engineering Logistics | 7.5 | Inventory, theories on logistics, forecasting and more. | 2.5 | Lot of focus on general concepts, rather than calculations, which I didn't particularly like. |
| 4 | Nutrition and Food Innovation | 7.5 | Designing a new food product in the context of the Australian food market. Focus on nutritional content. | 5 | The only course that matched my Food Technology degree. Recommend for Food Technology students to get insight into the Australian food system. Also liked that we had a lot of guest lectures. |
| 5 | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | |

What is it like to study there?

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

More focus on assignments and more exams during the semester, almost no final exams. Less contact hours and also a lower workload compared to the WUR.

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?

Quite approachable, comparable to the WUR.

What does the university offer students additionally?

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

I signed up for the uni sports facilities, which cost me 11 eu/month. Quite expensive, but since I had more free time I used it a lot.

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?

I signed up for accommodation via the University, which is very easy, but I believe more expensive than finding something yourself. However, I highly recommend this! I lived on the Campus East location (the best!), which is a 5 minute walk to the beach and had a real community feeling. Every day, we all ate breakfast and dinner together in the cafeteria, which was very nice. I paid 800 euro/month, including breakfast and dinner.

What is the culture of the country like?

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

Australia is sunny, laid-back and people are outside a lot more than in the Netherlands. Being active and in the sun is highly enjoyed.

Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?)

Very easy and cheap, especially in the Sydney/Wollongong area. Check on/off with credit card. Free shuttle bus in Wollongong, connecting my accommodation, city centre and uni.

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: 2000

Visa if applicable: 420

Vaccinations if applicable: NA

Insurances (extra, if applicable): 160 (Health)

Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation: 800 (Catered uni accommodation)

Groceries: lower

Public transport: cheaper, but I used it more so higher expenses than in NL

Restaurant/going out for dinner: almost 0

Daytrips/sight-seeing: a lot higher (I did a lot)

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?

Jervis Bay, Blue Mountains, Sydney, Kelly Falls, Royal National Park, a lot is accessible by public transport. A car is useful for epic waterfalls in the area.

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

Brokers Nose and/or Mount Keira – exceptional views on Wollongong.

Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time?

E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?

Sunrises over the ocean were the best.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

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

I struggled with my courses (and a new education system) and not having had a summer break before starting with uni again, but that got better over time.

What is your best memory of your time abroad?

Being outside and in the sun all the time, making the most of my time there because everybody wanted to do as much as possible.

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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