



Wageningen University and Research



Disclaimer

The “VeSte goes abroad” survey will be used to inform students interested in an exchange programme to complete their minor. All answers are personal experiences, that is why no rights can be derived from the answers.

If you do not want to answer a certain question, you are free to. Readers of this survey should only contact the author of the survey if the author explicitly agreed to be contacted. The contact should be for addition to this survey.

Enjoy!

With regards,

VeSte Wageningen

VeSte Goes Abroad

1. Student Information

1.1 Basic information student

Name (optional)	Pien van der Sanden	
Field of study in Wageningen	Bsc - International Development Studies	
Form of study exchange	Minor - Bsc	
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	2/1/2018 until 30/6/2018	
Country (exchange)	South Africa	
City (exchange)	Stellenbosch	
University (exchange)	Stellenbosch University	
Faculty (exchange)	Arts and Social Sciences	
How did you get information on studying abroad?	Websites	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Contact person	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Coordinator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Exchange programme	
	Study advisor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Other students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Differently	[Insert answer]

1.2 Motivation for exchange

Reasons for exchange, why this choice, interests, etc. (optional)

Answer:

Always been interested by Africa, Stellenbosch is only university with exchange programme with Wageningen. South Africa is a beautiful country but also a hard history, lot of interesting stuff happening and happened.

2. University and studying

2.1 Academic structure

How is the study formalized; study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material etc.

Answer: I followed sociology courses and there you have to write a lot of essays. Level is quite similar to Wageningen or maybe a bit easier only workload is more. Lectures in big lecture halls and tutorials in smaller groups, every lecture/tutorial takes 50 minutes. At the end of semester exams, sometimes tests in the middle of the semester.

2.2 Courses

General information about the followed courses. If desired, more detailed information can be added beneath the column.

Answer:

	<i>Course</i>	<i>ECTS</i>	<i>Short description of the contents</i>	<i>Appreciation of course: 1(low) – 5(high)</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	Sociology: Race 222	4	Basically, everything about race, as social construct etc and related to South African history	5	Was super interesting. Perfect course if you are interested in social identity and South Africa's history of colonialism and apartheid and the social structures nowadays.
2	Sociology: Poverty, Inequality and Development 212	4	Kind of connected with the Race course. About defining poverty and inequality, and the situation in African countries. What is the cause and if foreign aid helps or does harm. Influence of history	5	Also really interesting. African perspective of poverty in African countries related to the history.
3	Afrikaans language and culture for Dutch and Belgium students	6	Learning Afrikaans and about the history of this language and culture.	4	The culture part gives you a good insight in South Africa's history. Teacher is really nice and you have excursions. The language part is not too hard since the language is quite similar to Dutch. Only you have to prepare something for almost every lecture.
4	HIV and AIDS in a South African and Social Justice perspective	6	About HIV and AIDS. What is it, basic information and statistics. Focused on	4	Good course if you are interested in diseases and the social impact of it. Big burden in South Africa what makes it

			South Africa. Prevention etc.		an interesting course to follow while you are here. Gives a lot of insights.
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					

2.3 Culture of the university

What is the culture like, how approachable are the lecturers, is there engagement with local students? Introduction programme present; mentors, buddies? Differences with the WUR, etc.

Answer: The lecturers I had are really easy to approach. Actually it is quite similar to Wageningen. There is an introduction week for international students and you can subscribe for having a buddy. I would recommend doing both. My tutorials were giving by master students/PhD.

2.4 How does the university function?

How does the university function in the broader sense? Enrolment university, course registration, faculties, presence international office etc.

Answer: Most people working at the international office are very helpful. Only sometimes a bit more explanation would be nice, some things remain a bit vague or everyone says something else. You can reach them by e-mail if you have questions before coming to Stellenbosch. It takes some time before you receive your proof of enrolment letter so you should start arranging things for your visa earlier since this takes a lot of effort.

2.5 Facilities of the university

What does the university offer the student additionally? Catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities, etc.

Answer: There is a lot to do at Stellenbosch University. As international student you can subscribe for the same societies as other Stellenbosch students. Most student houses have laundry facilities. You can also hire a maties bike if you want, but most students do everything by foot. There is a maties gym including outdoor and indoor swimming pool. A student centre with a lot of coffee shops and some stores for lunch and other stuff. Also a big library with a lot of tables to sit, only sometimes hard to find a computer or plug in place. They offer WIFI but you have to pay for this.

3. Free Time

3.1 Culture of destination

What is the culture of the country like? Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners, etc.

Answer: They like meat here, you are going to attend a lot of braais during summer time. The distinction between white and black people is visible and Stellenbosch is a former white Afrikaans university what means that the demographics of Stellenbosch is not similar to the demographics of South Africa. A lot of things are still in Afrikaans (not a big issue for Dutch students) but almost everything is also in English now. You will definitely feel the tension between the different population groups in South Africa and the inequality. Also they speak in race terms as black, coloured and white. The apartheid structures are still visible. At Stellenbosch university study a lot of privileged white kids that live in their own bubble. There is not a lot of mixing between students from different backgrounds. However, you are going to love this place. There are a lot of friendly people who create a good atmosphere. South Africans are friendly and will always help you. Stellenbosch is safe compared to other places in South Africa (SA), however you should be aware of robbery and other kinds of criminality. Rich and poor live literally next to each other here. Do not walk around looking on your phone but put it away. During day time you can walk freely on campus ground and surroundings; the mall etc., but in the evenings they recommend to go by Uber or walk in big groups. Almost all restaurants and other food places I have visited have really nice food. They have the same food as in Europe and going out for dinner is quite cheap. Their currency is RAND.

3.2 Travelling in the surroundings

What are must-sees in the area? Nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan, etc.

Answer: There is a lot to do in South Africa. Of course you are going to visit Cape Town and surroundings. Stellenbosch is a wine area so you won't leave here without having visited a lot of wine farms. The wine tastings are cheap. Travelling mostly happens by car or Uber. A lot of international students rent a car if they go somewhere for a day or few days. Otherwise you can go everywhere by Uber. Inside Stellenbosch you can walk or bike. Most international students go on the Garden Route, to Cederberge, Cape Town, etc. and after the semester they travel to Namibia and Botswana or other Southern African countries. Besides, I would definitely recommend Lesotho (a little country inside the borders of South Africa) during summer times. It is really easy to find people to travel with.

3.3 Insider info

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

Answer: visit a concert of the Stellenbosch University choir, this is magical! They are one of world's best university choirs. If you are here first semester (from January to June) you should definitely visit the varsity rugby games and support the maties team (buy a season ticket). There are a lot of nice hikes in the surroundings of Stellenbosch. The Panorama hike in Jonkershoek gives you beautiful views. Also go on the wine tram in Franschhoek for a day. Join the surfing society for surf lessons at Strand.

3.4 General info

General tips and tricks about leisure time. For example: recommendations for restaurants, going out, etc.

Answer: You will find out yourself .

4. Travelling and living

4.1 Housing

What are the possibilities for housing? Availability to sign up for a room on campus, private rooms, rent rates, other costs, good neighbourhoods, etc.

Answer: for private rooms you should be quick. Some private houses with international students are Bosman house, Beach house, Poolhouse, de Jordaan (?), etc. You can also choose for Academia (a big gated area with complexes, they put the international students together in a complex). Academia is cheaper than the private houses but also different. You have to buy everything yourself such as pots and pans while in the private houses it is already there. I lived in Bosman House and this was a good choice. It is expensive, almost 500 euros a month I think, but I would do it again. The good thing about this house is that half of it are international students and the other half South African. There is a nice outdoor area with braai (bbq) place and swimming pool and it is close to campus. I did almost all the travelling etc with my roommates.

4.2 Living

General price indication of the place of residence compared to living in Wageningen. It does not have to be an exact calculation.

Answer: Academia around 300 euros a month (I guess). Private houses 400-500 euros a month. Also, you have to buy electricity in the supermarket and electricity for hot water. In Academia this is already included, in Bosman house not. It works the same as prepaid on your phone.

4.3 Accessibility from the Netherlands

How do you reach the destination? When to book your flights, transportation means, etc.

Answer: Flying to Cape Town and international office will pick you from the airport the day you arrive.

4.4 Extra costs to reach destination

Extra costs to reach destination			
Should a visa be requested?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>	Visa itself is 30 euros but you have to pay for things you need to get a visa.
Should a residence permit be requested?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>	Study visa

3.5 Transport

Public transport infrastructure. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university, etc.

Answer: University by foot or bike. In the evenings Uber (cheapest is 21 rand a ride, just install the Uber app on your phone and connect it to your creditcard (they prefer this over cash)). Renting a car for visiting for example Cape Town is sometimes cheaper than going everywhere by Uber (depends if you share an Uber, etc.).

4.6 General Tips

General tips and tricks for travelling and living.

Answer: Share ubers with other students. Join the international student Facebook group for Stellenbosch university.

Also, be aware of the water crisis in the Western Cape. They ask you to help in saving water. This means short showers of 2 minutes and only flushing the toilet when really necessarily. Some taps are locked and not working in university and in Cape Town. They use hand sanitizer instead. You should try to help in saving water also when you will only be there for half a year.

Please start early with arranging your visa cause this will take a lot of time and effort.

5. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Will I allow my name and contact details to appear on the website?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
Name	Pien van der Sanden	

6. Thank you!

Thank you very much for sharing your exchange experience. We are confident that many interested students can be helped with making their decisions! If you have any questions, do not hesitate to send a mail to: veste@wur.nl

For more information on student exchanges, check out: www.wu.nl/exchange